

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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COMMENTARY LAUDS NEW ANDROPOV ARMS PROPOSAL

LD042333 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 4 May 83

[Nikolay Agayants commentary]

[Text] A passionate appeal for peace and sense has again come from Moscow: the Soviet Union is ready to come to an agreement on the equality of nuclear potentials in Europe, both as to delivery vehicles as to warheads -- taking into account, of course, the corresponding armaments of Britain and France. This telegram from a BTA correspondent from Sofia reflects as if in a mirror the international public's reaction to one more step our state has undertaken to alleviate tension, curb the arms race and abate the danger of nuclear war.

At the same time the foreign press, radio and television note the incomprehensible stubbornness with which the United States continues to play with fire, pushing mankind to the brink of catastrophe, by juggling the zero, interim and other options.

Today it is already absolutely clear that Washington's propagandist tightrope walking, kicking up a racket in connection with the USSR's imaginary military superiority and the mythical Red Threat, is only a screen attempting to cover the shallowness and groundlessness of the projects being put forward by the White House.

When Ronald Reagan announced his zero option a little under 1 and 1/2 years ago, this idea did not arouse great enthusiasm, even among his followers.

The reason for this is that the Washington administration's manifestly discerned intention with this was to attempt to disturb the existing balance of forces and ensure U.S. military superiority to the accompaniment of lofty phrases about the striving for peace and talks. After all, this option boiled down to the demand that all Soviet medium-range missiles be destroyed, leaving all existing medium-range weapons, without cutting back a single missile or a single aircraft, on the side of the Americans and their NATO allies.

The Soviet Union unmasked and rejected these improper attempts. Then on 30 March this year President Reagan raised the notorious interim option, which proposes that we reduce medium-range missiles on all the country's territory. In response to this the United States would consent to some reduction of the quantity of its nuclear missiles, which they already intend to deploy on the territory of five West European states at the end of this year. Moreover, Washington does not count those similar weapons that are at the disposal of Britain and France. In a word, if the Soviet Union were to accept this interim option the United States would keep in the zone of Europe its Air Force at airports and on aircraft carriers -- its forward-based means of delivering nuclear weapons, which are capable of reaching the territory of the Soviet Union -- in the European zone untouched. In this way, the interim option, just like the zero option, was clearly aimed at unilaterally disarming the Soviet Union, obtaining U.S. military superiority in Europe. That is why it is unacceptable.

Reacting to yesterday's speech by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov in the Kremlin, foreign mass media note that in raising a new, peaceful, constructive proposal, the Soviet leader has once again shown a profoundly responsible approach to solving today's major problem: the problem of war and peace. As the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said, we have more than once declared our readiness to examine any other initiatives based on the principles of the sides' equality and identical security. Any attempt to violate this principle has no chance of success. We shall not allow ourselves to be deceived.

Canadian Assessment of Proposal Noted

LD050653 Moscow TASS in English 0642 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Ottawa May 5 -- Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Elliott-Trudeau said that Yuriy Andropov's proposal concerning medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe was very positive. Trudeau hoped that it would not be rejected, that, on the contrary, it would be considered with tremendous interest and positively approached. They regarded Andropov's proposal as a step in the right direction, the prime minister added.

Trudeau made this statement in the House of Commons yesterday in reply to a request by a number of MP's to state his assessment of the Soviet Union's proposal concerning equality of nuclear potentials in Europe both as regards delivery vehicles and warheads, taking into consideration, of course, the relevant arms of Britain and France.

PONOMAREV ASSERTS USSR 'PRINCIPLED' ARMS POLICY

PM040934 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 May 83 First Edition p 3

[Colonel M. Ponomarev "Observer's Notes": "Principled, Realistic Policy"]

[Text] Comrade Y. V. Andropov's replies to the magazine DER SPIEGEL, as well as his answers to the appeal by a group of American scientists and public figures and to the appeal by the heads of state and government of Austria, Cyprus, San Marino, Finland, Sweden and Yugoslavia, are continuing to arouse unabated interest among state, political, and public circles in many countries and among foreign mass media. Such close attention to profoundly reasoned and accurate assessment of the present-day situation in the international arena, convincingly show the constructive nature of the peace-loving Soviet foreign policy, and analyze the reasons for and consequences of the present exacerbation of the situation in the world and ways to normalize it.

The socialist community countries' press organs and other states' progressive publications note in their commentaries the Soviet Union's principled and realistic approach to problems of war and peace -- the most important problems of the present day. Even Western bourgeois newspapers and magazines have been forced to note the distinct and clear exposition of the USSR's stand on the most acute questions of the international situation, above all on questions of curbing the nuclear arms race. Thus, West German's SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG wrote: "In his conversation with R. Augstein, publisher of the magazine DER SPIEGEL, Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, put forward such detailed arguments that it makes possible a considerably clearer understanding of the assessment of the existing situation in the world from the USSR's viewpoint."

To sum up the numerous responses to Comrade Yu. V. Andropov's DER SPIEGEL interview, it is possible to single out a number of aspects which continue to attract the special attention of the international public. Above all, there are the Soviet Union's legitimate interests, substantiated by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary.

The Soviet people have the same right to security as the peoples of America, Britain, France and other countries. Precisely this, in particular, determines the USSR's stand at the talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe, which are now taking place in Geneva. The Soviet side is conducting them with firm resolve to seek a reduction in the existing medium-range nuclear facilities of the USSR and the NATO countries in that region of the world and a radical mutual lowering of the level of nuclear confrontation.

Let us recall: The Soviet Union has taken a number of major steps to create a favorable atmosphere at the Geneva talks. It has unilaterally announced a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles in the European part of the USSR. The Soviet proposal to reach agreement on the renunciation of all types of nuclear weapons designed to hit targets in Europe -- both medium-range and tactical weapons -- contained a cardinal solution. It turned out that the West is not ready for such a solution. Then the USSR submitted another proposal which, if realized, would make it possible to reduce by more than two-thirds the number of medium-range facilities on each side. But the United States also refused to agree to this. Finally, if the West agreed to the new option proposed by the Soviet side last December, then the USSR and the NATO countries would have 162 missiles left on each side, that is, exactly the same number as there are now on the NATO side -- in Britain and France. Each side would also have left 138 aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons, categorized as medium-range arms. In all, in this case, more than 1,300 units of medium-range weapons would be reduced. After this both the number of launchers of medium-range Soviet missiles and the total number of warheads on them would be less than in 1976, that is, before the Soviet Union started modernizing such missiles.

But, in agreeing to the Geneva talks, the United States was pursuing a quite different aim -- not to limit medium-range nuclear arms but at all costs to add powerful new arms to the existing extensive NATO nuclear arsenal and to secure the Soviet Union's unilateral disarmament. The U.S. President's notorious "zero option" accorded with just this aim. The so-called "interim option" of the head of the Washington administration also pursues the same aim. Its entire essence consists in making the USSR reduce its medium-range missiles, and not only in the European part of the country but also throughout its territory. "In return" the United States would acquire the right to deploy its latest Pershing and cruise missiles in West Europe in addition to the medium-range weapons which it and its allies already have there, while reducing their number just a little against what was originally planned. On the whole it turns out that in the event of realizing Reagan's "interim option" NATO would have almost 2.5 times more medium-range warheads than the Soviet Union.

Of course, such "options" are totally unacceptable to the Soviet Union. Consenting to them would mean recognizing the right of one side (the United States) to favorable security and of the other (the Soviet Union) to declining security.

Thus, two opposing lines and two opposing approaches confront each other extremely graphically at the Geneva talks. The Soviet Union is struggling to reduce the military danger and prevent nuclear war. The United States is seeking, above all, to harm the Soviet Union's security, upset the established equilibrium of forces in its favor and achieve military superiority. This is why it has embarked on the path of developing an unprecedented arms race in all directions.

Not to start an arms race where there has not been one and to end it where it is now taking place -- this is the essence of the Soviet stand. But what is the United States doing? It is working toward a considerable and really radical buildup of its strategic arms. It is planned to deploy more than 12,000 additional units of long-range cruise missiles alone in the next few years.

The U.S. President's recent decision to embark on the speediest deployment of MX ICBM's has created great alarm throughout the world. This decision is encountering sharp censure even among representatives of the U.S. ruling circles. There is no military or political justification for the MX program, a special statement by Senator A. Cranston, the eminent American politician, reads. The President has demonstrated once again, the senator pointed out, that his policy is to build more and more nuclear missiles.

At the same time the head of the White House has approved plans to create a new ICBM called Midgetman. It is proposed additionally to deploy a considerable number of these missiles in the next few years. Meanwhile, the command, control and communications system of the U.S. strategic offensive forces is continuing to be improved, and other plans of the same sort are also being realized urgently.

Among them mention should be made of the plans announced in Washington to develop wide-scale and high effective ABM defenses. What is counted on here is impunity and the infliction of a nuclear first strike in the belief that it is possible to make oneself secure against a counterstrike. The United States wants to go into space with weapons in order to threaten mankind from there. The whole world has greeted with a feeling of great satisfaction Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's words that preventing the militarization of space is one of the top priority problems facing mankind and that a great deal here on earth depends on whether it is resolved.

This is the situation which is taking shape. The Soviet Union proposes freezing the sides' nuclear arsenals. The United States is accelerating the nuclear arms race. The USSR together with its allies and friends proposes concluding between Warsaw Pact and NATO countries a treaty on the nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace, while the United States and other Western countries do not react at all to this proposal and pretend it does not even exist.

The Soviet Union, as Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's replies to the magazine DER SPIEGEL emphasized, will continue consistently to seek and strive to find a common language with the American side. The Soviet proposals submitted earlier remain in force.

The Leninist strategy of peace and the Leninist principles of socialist foreign policy determine the entire international activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The Soviet Union actively advocates peaceful businesslike cooperation with states belonging to the other sociopolitical system. Such cooperation between the USSR and the FRG, for example, is an important factor of stability in Europe and in international life as a whole. But if FRG territory were turned into a bridgehead for making a nuclear strike on the USSR and its allies, then Soviet-West German relations would be seriously harmed.

In general, if the United States nonetheless deploys its medium-range missiles in Europe or takes any other steps leading to a disruption of the military-strategic parity in order to acquire the opportunity to blackmail the Soviet Union with the nuclear threat, then the USSR will be forced to take appropriate countermeasures. The USSR sees parity as a reliable guarantee of peace and does everything to preserve it. And if, for example, the Geneva talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe do not lead to positive results, the Soviet Union will find the wherewithal to respond to Washington's actions both directly with regard to U.S. territory and with regard to Europe. For the Soviet Union cannot be unconcerned about the prospect of the deployment of more than 500 nuclear missiles not far from its borders in addition to the British and French missiles already in position. Soviet countermeasures will be fully justified from any viewpoint, including the highest moral standards.

The Soviet Union's entire foreign policy is evaluated according to the highest moral standards. This was confirmed yet again by the world public reaction to Comrade Yu. V. Andropov's replies to the magazine DER SPIEGEL, to the American girl Samantha Smith, to the group of American scientists and public figures and to the leaders of six neutral and nonaligned states of Europe. They expressed with unbending determination the Soviet people's common desire for peace for themselves and for all the peoples of the planet and their common resolve to champion and defend peace.

U.S. 'PLAYING FOR TIME' AT ARMS TALKS

LD050257 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] It has been reported in Washington that the American Air Force intends to ask Congress to appropriate \$600 million this year needed for the development of the new Midgetman missile. Viktor Olin has these details:

The Midgetman is a small mobile missile carrying one nuclear warhead and having a range of 12,000 km. The new missile will be developed in parallel with MX missiles capable of carrying 10 nuclear warheads each. It has not yet been decided how many Midgetmen will be built but Congress circles put the figure at 1,000 units for a total sum of \$100 billion. The program for the building and deployment of Midgetman covers the next 20 years and this is perhaps the main factor in assessing trends of the military policy of the current administration. One characteristic feature of these trends is a desire to build up strategic nuclear arsenals for the sake of winning military supremacy on a global scale. So far it is hard to predict how the Congress will react to the request of the Air Force for allocations, but one thing is obvious already now: that the militarist tendencies and the one-sided direction of the administration's policy in the military field run against increasing concern, criticism and opposition of the public. The latest example is the pastoral letter adopted by the overwhelming majority of participants in the national conference of Catholic bishops. The letter calls for a freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear arms as a step towards their complete elimination from people's life. Significantly, the letter was approved despite pressure applied by the administration in order to soften some of the letter's wording.

Facing increased opposition to their policy, Washington officials have to resort to all kinds of maneuvering, but for the sole purpose of meeting their own ends, even if this is achieved in a roundabout way. For example, Washington recently leaked information to the effect that the American delegation had been instructed to take a more flexible stand at the talks on strategic arms in Geneva. As it turned out later, that was done to neutralize congressional opposition to plans for the deployment of MX missiles. A similar maneuver was used in reply to the proposal by the Soviet leader, Yuriy Andropov, to balance nuclear potentials in Europe both in the nuclear delivery systems and in the number of nuclear warheads, with the nuclear potentials of Britain and France taken into account. The American Administration first voiced in general terms its approval of the initiative but declared later that it was unacceptable to the United States. On the whole, as analysis of the administration's disarmament policy reveals, Washington has failed to make a single realistic proposal capable of mutual agreement. The administration is just playing for time. It wants to buy time necessary for adding huge MX missiles, little Midgetmen and other types of lethal weapons to its strategic arsenal.

PRAVDA CITES CSCE DELEGATES ON ANDROPOV REMARKS

PM050951 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "To Achieve a Noble Objective"]

[Text] Madrid, 3 May -- Circles at the Madrid meeting of representatives of the states which took part in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe have welcomed with great interest and attention Yu.V. Andropov's reply to the appeal from the heads of state and government of Austria, Cyprus, San Marino, Finland, Sweden and Yugoslavia. The opinion is being voiced that it is convincing evidence of the constructive stance of the Soviet Union and the USSR's readiness for cooperation in the interests of completing this forum with positive results within a tight schedule.

The time has come to draft the final document of the Madrid meeting, M. Kahiluoto, the deputy head of the Finnish delegation, said in an interview with a TASS correspondent. We believe that the attainment of substantial positive accord would be a valuable step in the further development of all-European progress and would promote the expansion of cooperation among the European states in all spheres. Finally, it would make it possible to hold a conference on confidence-building measures and security and disarmament in Europe. Supporting the updated draft of the final document as the basis for completing work in the very near future on the complete coordination of this document, Yu.V. Andropov displayed the USSR's political will and its firm desire to achieve the consolidation of relations of cooperation and detente in Europe.

(I. Bekeris), the head of the Swedish delegation, said that Sweden is highly satisfied with the assessment made by Yu.V. Andropov of the updated draft of the group of neutral and nonaligned countries as the basis for total coordination of the final document at the Madrid meeting. This instills in us the hope that it will be possible to complete the meeting with a positive outcome, he said. We believe that there is a good opportunity for achieving its successful completion.

W. Konarski, heading the Polish delegation, noted that, as Yu.V. Andropov's statements show, the Soviet Union continues to seek to complete the Madrid meeting successfully as soon as possible. This meeting, he continued, has now entered a decisive stage. And I think that the Soviet leader's statement will have positive influence on its progress.

We note that the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's reply to the appeal of the leaders of six neutral and nonaligned countries is welcomed at the Madrid meeting, K. Grigorov, head of the Bulgarian delegation, told a TASS correspondent. This reply reaffirms that the Soviet Union from the very start has been consistently steering a line toward the implementation of the Helsinki accords and the continuation and intensification of the all-European process, an important element in which would be the fruitful completion of the Madrid meeting. With the USSR, the Bulgarian representative said, all the socialist countries are making every effort to achieve this noble objective.

RUBEN INTERVIEWED ON IPU COUNCIL SESSION

PM041143 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview in Helsinki with V.P. Ruben, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, by correspondent N. Ivanov: "Common Concern for Peace" -- date not given]

[Text] The 132d IPU Council Session has ended in the Finnish capital. More than 500 parliamentarians from 87 countries spent a week in Helsinki discussing questions connected with modern international development.

IZVESTIYA correspondent N. Ivanov asked V.P. Ruben, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities and leader of the delegation of the USSR Parliamentary Group, to speak about the results of the parliamentarians' spring meeting.

I should probably single out, above all, the fact that the majority of parliamentarians are fully aware of the danger of the present world development. They understand that the course of imperialist forces headed by the United States must be countered with collective efforts aimed at strengthening peace and the peoples' security and curbing the arms race.

During the discussions the delegations from the socialist countries, as well as many nonaligned states, drew attention to the importance of the USSR's unilateral pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. The proposals advanced in the Warsaw Pact states' Political Declaration merited the parliamentarians high assessment. Our country's peace-loving policy meets with broad understanding and support.

During the IPU Council meetings not only representatives of the Soviet Union, the socialist countries and nonaligned states, but also many Western parliamentarians, advocated efforts to enhance the role of the United Nations. This high international organization is called upon to make its contributions to ensuring peace and the peoples' security and to developing cooperation among states.

The elaborated drafts of the resolutions which will be discussed at the 70th IPU Conference reflected the desire of the majority of the participants to liquidate the last hotbeds of colonialism on earth and unconditional condemnation of the racist Republic of South Africa regime for its illegal occupation of Namibia. The draft resolutions contain a demand for the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from that country's territory. The cooperation of the United States, Israel, and a number of other Western countries with the racist Pretoria regime is condemned.

The IPU Council meetings were held in a complex atmosphere. Right from the start the NATO countries' delegations adopted a policy of confrontation.

By using their mechanical majority the delegations from the United States and other Western countries, with the support of a number of nonaligned states' delegations, forced through a decision to hold the 70th IPU Conference to Seoul. The delegations from the USSR and the socialist countries both earlier and now in Helsinki advocated moving the conference to another acceptable place. They declared that the decision adopted violated the previously observed principle of consensus in determining the venue for IPU conferences.

I must say that during the spring forum certain Western parliamentarians displayed a lack of spirit of constructive cooperation and political realism. And yet this meeting of parliamentarians in the capital of Suomi clearly showed that there is growing understanding in the world of the need for active efforts in the struggle to remove the threat of nuclear war and to strengthen international security. The activities of Soviet parliamentarians are subordinated to achieving these noble aims, V.P. Ruben said in conclusion.

GVISHIANI ON THIRD WORLD AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

PM042309 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 May 83 First Edition p 4

[Article by Academician D. Gvishiani: "Scientific and Technical Revolution and the Developing Countries"]

[Text] The growth of the economic role played by scientific and technical progress is global in character and affects all countries, including the developing countries. In this connection the question of how to utilize the achievements of advanced science and technology in the interests of the countries which have embarked on the path of independent development arises with special acuteness today.

It is perfectly obvious that the solution of these problems, and of other problems linked with them, is mainly a matter for the developing countries themselves. It depends on their own efforts whether they will manage to utilize the new opportunities emerging at the present stage of the contemporary scientific and technical revolution. It is, however, indisputable that a most important role in determining the developing countries' position in the present system of the international division of labor will also be played by the changes occurring within the world economy as a whole, under the specific conditions of the so-called transfer of technology.

The United Nations is also called upon to play an important role in helping the developing countries in their economic, scientific, and technical development. This also applies to the UN Industrial Development Organization which, with the cooperation of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, organized in mid-April in Tbilisi a symposium on the subject "Modern Technology and Development" attended by representatives of scientific and government circles from 23 countries.

The symposium's goal was to comprehensively review and analyze the present situation regarding the application of latest technology in developing countries, outline possible ways to accelerate its utilization, and clarify the preconditions needed for this and any possible consequences.

What conclusions were reached by the participants in the symposium?

The main one is that mankind, including the developing countries, can and must utilize the latest achievements of modern science and technology for constructive purposes and to resolve the complicated problems of economic and social development. The utilization of such achievements as biotechnology, microprocessors, new materials, and new energy sources must not be the monopoly or privilege of industrially developed countries only, but must serve the goals of the liberated countries' development.

An essential condition of successful scientific and technical progress is the creation of the necessary prerequisites for ensuring it, such as the accumulation of investment funds and funds for the training of specialists, with simultaneous attention to the socioeconomic consequences of this development; its effect on employment, the situation of the broad people's strata, and so on. Thus, the experience of conducting the "green revolution" in developing countries shows that in some countries the application of advanced achievements of modern agricultural sciences, although making it possible to sharply increase output and in some cases even having the result that grain-importing countries have become grain exporters, has nevertheless not had an impact on improving the situation of the working masses. The conclusion from such facts is obvious: Scientific and technical progress must be accompanied by socioeconomic progress and the implementation of the necessary social reforms and economic transformations.

It has to be noted in this connection that, bearing real conditions in mind, the developing countries cannot orientate themselves toward utilizing only the latest achievements of science and technology but must utilize the entire range of existing technical means and technological processes, both the latest and the traditional, proceeding from the specific conditions of each country.

It is at the same time obvious that regardless of what kind of technology is used -- the latest or the traditional -- decisive significance attaches to the maximum utilization of local and national resources: human, material, and financial. This is the only possible way to really strengthen the economic, scientific, and technical potential of developing countries and create real preconditions for ensuring their independent development.

The practical utilization of the latest achievements of science and technology under the conditions of developing countries leads to higher labor productivity and makes it possible to set up new branches of industry, undertake the production of new and more sophisticated products, reduce the monotony of labor, and improve working conditions. The application of the latest achievements of science and technology can accelerate the solution of the specific problems facing developing countries in the spheres of education, public health, food production, and the economy.

Under such conditions the further expansion and deepening of scientific, technical, and economic cooperation between developing countries themselves acquires special significance. Such cooperation can cover spheres such as the setting up of joint production and utilization of the latest equipment and technology, the exchange of experience in relevant spheres, the training of special cadres, joint scientific research and development, and the coordination of developing countries' activity in the transfer of technology and in foreign trade.

The achievements of modern science and technology can fully serve the interests of developing countries under conditions when they are used for constructive, rather than destructive, purposes. The attempts by the West's aggressive circles to force upon the world new rounds of the arms race and bring civilization to the verge of thermonuclear disaster and their shameless interference in the internal affairs of independent states in practically all continents delay the time of and opportunities for purposeful utilization of the latest technology for development purposes.

The greatest and best part of the scientific and technical potential of developed capitalist countries is drawn into the orbit of the arms race. In the United States alone, three-fourths of all state allocations for science are channeled into military and space research. Such is imperialism's truly predatory attitude toward the planet's scientific and technical resources.

At the same time, a number of developing countries are increasing the proportion of scientific research and development conducted for military purposes, something that is especially ruinous under conditions of economic backwardness and chronic shortage of resources. Such is reality. It shows that the reduction of international tension and the continuation of detente are not only a most important prerequisite for utilizing the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution for the benefit of socio-economic progress in developing countries, but also the main condition for this process.

Without the peaceful development of interstate relations it is impossible to seriously expect real success in attempts to globally pool states' efforts to implement the tremendous possibilities of modern science and technology for development purposes. This precisely is the foreign policy goal which the USSR has proclaimed and resolutely defends.

"We are in favor of broad and fruitful cooperation, free from diktat and interference in other people's affairs, between all peoples in the world to their mutual advantage and for the benefit of all mankind," Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has noted.

International cooperation in the sphere of applying the achievements of science and technology for development purposes, in our profound conviction, must be organized -- and has always been organized by the Soviet Union -- on the basis of full equality, mutual advantage, noninterference in internal affairs, and respect for sovereignty.

We are prepared to make available to all interested countries the Soviet state's experience in developing its scientific and technical potential, in the belief that this experience can, in various forms, be utilized by developing countries in elaborating and implementing a policy of socioeconomic development, taking into account the specific peculiarities of each country.

The great experience accumulated by the Soviet state shows convincingly that the socialist planned economic system, which is protected from the influence of market [konyunktorny] factors, creates a firm base for the steady development of science and technology and of international scientific and technical cooperation.

METROPOLITAN ALEKSIY ON 'LIFE, PEACE' CONFERENCE

LD281040 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 83 Morning Edition p 4

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr, TASS -- The World Christian Conference, which was held 20-23 April in Uppsala, Sweden, under the watchword "Life and Peace," was a representative forum whose convocation was very timely and topical, said Aleksey, the metropolitan of Tallinn and Estonia and member of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, who had been one of the presidents of the conference. Never before has mankind needed such urgent steps in defense of peace and life, he told TASS correspondent Anna Grigoryeva. These steps were discussed at the conference which united prominent religious leaders from 60 countries. Collective and unanimous appraisals of the present situation and proposals in defence of peace constitute the main final document of the conference -- a message to all peoples of good will.

It is only natural that it emphasizes the responsibility of churches and believers whose sacred duty is to "make peace".

The struggle against military designs is assuming a special nature in our time, Metropolitan Aleksey went on to say. People, coming out for world peace, understand that mankind in the present international situation is confronted by the final choice between life and death. "For the first time in history we human beings, who always had limited possibilities of destruction, can now raze civilization, which has been built up throughout all preceding centuries, from the face of the earth. We fault the persistent need of cooperation between men and women of good will who are united with us in our profound desire for creating conditions for peace", the message says.

I personally, Metropolitan Aleksey went on to say, regard the Uppsala conference as part of the large-scale peacemaking activity of churches that has been witnessed in recent years.

"Religious Leaders for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe" was the title of a world interreligious conference held in Moscow in 1982.

"Life and Peace" is the watchword of the Uppsala forum of participants in the movement against the threat of war. In both cases religious leaders strove to express their opinion about methods which must be used to eliminate the threat of nuclear annihilation from our life.

"The imminent nuclear horror," the message says, calls for the churches placing in the foreground the question of peace. A church which keeps silent at such a crucial moment rejects the call of the Lord."

Metropolitan Aleksiy emphasized that the participants in the conference had advanced major recommendations concerning peace. Thus, for instance, the message points out that "the security of one country cannot be achieved at the expense of the security of another, or through the desire for military superiority over others. It is only common security that gives security to everyone." It is precisely on such a foundation that the peoples should advance shoulder to shoulder to disarmament.

The message calls upon the states that are holding talks in Geneva, Vienna and Madrid "to redouble their efforts and lead the talks to positive results."

A freeze on the further manufacture and deployment of nuclear weapons; immediate agreement on the conclusion of a treaty concerning a total ban on nuclear tests; establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons; commitment by the government not to be the first to use nuclear weapons; implementation and expansion of confidence-building measures envisaged by the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference -- this is a far from complete list of the proposals made by the participants at the "Life and Peace" conference.

I should like to say, Metropolitan Aleksiy pointed out, that the proposals of the conference met with support by Sweden's public. The message, read out from the rostrum of a mass meeting in Stockholm, was met with proper understanding.

I cannot but mention, Metropolitan Aleksiy said in conclusion, that the participants in the conference throughout its proceedings received numerous letters. Most moving and cordially received were letters and drawings sent by children. The mail received by the participants in the conference was evidence that all circles, all generations had been drawn into the defense of peace from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

HOUSE FREEZE RESOLUTION SEEN AS NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

LD050800 Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Washington May 5 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lyutyy reports:

The U.S. House of Representatives, which adopted on Wednesday by 287 votes against 149 the resolution calling for an immediate, mutual and verifiable freeze on the production, tests and deployment of nuclear weapons of the United States and the USSR, has actually gave a vote of non-confidence in the Reagan administration's course of escalating the nuclear arms race.

The approval of the resolution with such an impressive majority of votes, which exceeded all expectations, is evidence of the proportions of the movement in the United States against nuclear war and the administration's adventurist militaristic course. According to the data of the latest Louis Harris service public opinion poll, 79 percent of the Americans come out in support of the freeze of the nuclear arsenals.

The vote on the resolution has been a major victory of all rank-and-file Americans, said one of the co-authors of the resolution Congressman Edward Markey (Democrat from the State of Massachusetts). By making such a historical step, he said, the House of Representatives turned down President Reagan's stand at the Geneva negotiations with the Soviet Union on the question of limitation of armaments. The outcome of the vote demonstrated that the American people want the immediate freeze on the nuclear arms race between the United States and the USSR and then considerable reductions of nuclear weapons.

The vote has been a vote of conscience for every congressman, and the discussion that preceeded the vote will enter the history of the House of Representatives as one of the most grandiose, said Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas O'Neill (Democrat from the State of Massachusetts).

Coordinator of the National Campaign for the Freeze of Nuclear Armaments Randall Kehler emphasised that the movement for the freeze of nuclear weapons attained a great victory. Noting that the efforts of the participants in the movement would now be aimed at seeing to it that a similar resolution should be adopted by the American Senate, Randall Kehler stressed that approval of that document by the upper chamber of Congress was only a matter of time, since the American people demand the freeze on nuclear armaments.

The Reagan administration exerted every effort to prevent the freeze resolution from being adopted. President Reagan personally led the unceremonious campaign of "influencing" congressmen, using undisguised threats and blackmail. On the instruction of the White House, the right-wing circles in the Congress resorted to the tactics of endless procrastinations, seeking to render innocuous the content of the resolution or to "bury" it under the heap of 60 amendments. Because of such unseemly manoeuvres the vote on the resolution was postponed five times. But all attempts of the White House to foil the vote were a failure.

As is noted by the UPI news agency, President Reagan demonstratively refused on Wednesday to comment on the results of the vote at the House of Representatives. This is no wonder. The outcome of the vote, observers point out, dealt a crushing strike on the dangerous militaristic policy of the administration. In the past few days that was the White House's third major defeat in that sphere.

At its meeting in Chicago on Tuesday one of the most influential and mass religious organisations in the country, the Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops, adopted a pastoral message, denouncing Washington's preparations for nuclear war as amoral and calling for the freeze on nuclear armaments. That message will provide guidance for almost 50 million Catholic parishioners in the United States.

A day before that a group of influential American senators and congressman sent a letter to the head of the administration, demanding that the U.S. should take a more flexible, constructive stand at the Soviet-American negotiations in Geneva.

HOUSE COMMITTEES OPPOSE PLANS FOR PENTAGON, CIA

LD042111 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 4 May 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Georgiy Zubkov]

[Text] Two reports on votes in committees of the U.S. Congress: one of them took place in the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, which voted against an increase of the U.S. Armed Forces strength in the near future by more than 37,000 men, as was planned by the White House. The Pentagon is insisting on this increase in connection with new types of weapons.

Commenting on this event, THE WASHINGTON POST calls the vote quite symptomatic, but in the past the Armed Services Committee always supported the Pentagon. But obviously its demands have become so great and dangerous that this is causing concern, even among those congressmen who share overall the military policy of the administration.

And now about another vote in the U.S. Congress. The press describes it as a blow to the Reagan administration's policy on Central America. What happened? The House of Representatives has a Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This special committee adopted a resolution by a majority of votes prohibiting the CIA from assisting armed groups attempting to overthrow the legitimate Government of Nicaragua.

The resolution from the committee naturally cannot have an effect in practice, nor moreover change the American Administration's course of interfering in the affairs of revolutionary Nicaragua. What is important is that such a resolution being voted through Congress is an official admission that the CIA finances, arms and directs the actions of counterrevolutionary bands against Nicaragua.

U.S. RECONSTRUCTING PUERTO RICO MILITARY BASE

LD032123 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 3 May 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Viktor Mikheyev]

[Text] The United States intends to reconstruct its military base on the island of Puerto Rico. The base was closed 11 years ago under public pressure. A special Pentagon group studying the best way to use this military base is now on this island. It is reported that spy planes will be based there.

States having democratic systems that are undergoing progressive socioeconomic changes -- Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua -- are the direct target of the latest aggressive acts by the Pentagon. Washington, as is known, supports only dictators and utilitarian regimes. There are over 40 American military bases in Latin America.

U.S. REFUSAL OF VISAS BREACHES HELSINKI ACCORDS

PM031219 Moscow TRUD in Russian 29 Apr 83 p 3

[P. Volpyanskiy report: "Free Exchange, U.S.-Style"]

[Text] A press conference was held yesterday at the AUCCTU's N.M. Shvernik Higher School of the Trade Union Movement. Professor M.V. Baglay, prorector of the school, told journalists:

"Back in 1980 the Higher School of the Trade Union Movement established links with Wayne University in Detroit, where working people can receive higher education by studying part-time in the department of extramural studies. What is more, 2,000 workers receive financial support for this purpose from the U.S. automobile workers union. The leaders of the department approached the Higher School of the Trade Union Movement with a request to arrange for 22 of their teachers and students to pay an educational and general interest visit to the Soviet Union. The visit duly took place in the fall of 1980.

In April 1981 we received an invitation from Wayne University for a group of teachers, postgraduates and undergraduates to pay a return visit to the United States, but this visit did not take place on account of discriminatory measures by the U.S. authorities.

In spite of this, we received another, 25-man group at the Higher School of the Trade Union Movement in 1982.

On Monday a group of 14 teachers, postgraduates and undergraduates, who had received personal invitations from their U.S. colleagues and friends who had visited our country, were to have left for the United States as tourists. But once again the State Department refused us visas. We regard the U.S. Government's latest act of hostility toward Soviet citizens as yet another flagrant violation of the Helsinki accords. The Reagan administration has once again demonstrated its wish to continue in the role of grave-digger of detente. We are confident, however, that the U.S. authorities' actions do not reflect the views of ordinary Americans. The Americans who invited us to visit their country are expressing their indignation at what has happened and calling for the continuation of ties between the Soviet and American people."

Group members V.V. Gordeyev, A.A. Zhinkin and S.P. Radina, who spoke at the press conference, expressed their indignation over the U.S. authorities' discriminatory measures.

CANADIAN PRESS CITED ON TRUDEAU U.S. VISIT

PM041327 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 83 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by correspondent N. Bragin: "Blatant Pressure"]

[Text] Ottawa, 3 May -- Canadian Prime Minister P.E. Trudeau's visit to Washington in late April took place in an atmosphere of blatant pressure from the U.S. side.

The Canadian press attests that U.S. President R. Reagan was seeking from his guest unconditional support for Washington's present course on a wide range of international questions.

During the talks with Trudeau, the largest Canadian newspaper, THE GLOBE AND MAIL, writes, the White House incumbent "avoided discussing Canadian-U.S. contradictions." The U.S. President tried to create at any price the semblance that his economic policy, which is undermining the positions of other developed capitalist countries, meets with Ottawa's understanding.

However, the Canadian prime minister did not support R. Reagan and pointed to the existence of grave unresolved problems in the sphere of economic relations between the two countries. As for the forthcoming meeting of the "big seven" in Williamsburg (United States), the Canadian press writes that P.E. Trudeau insisted that President Reagan did not demand from his partners anti-Soviet actions in the sphere of trade with the USSR and other socialist countries.

The White House, the Canadian newspapers note, expected Canada to support Reagan's course toward stepping up U.S. interference in the internal affairs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean Basin. However, Ottawa has officially announced that Prime Minister Trudeau opposes interference in the Latin American countries' affairs and confirms his government's intention to develop business relations even with those countries which "displease" Washington.

Although they state that Trudeau supported the U.S. Administration's stance on the question of deploying new U.S. missiles in Europe, official reports on the Canadian-U.S. talks pass over in silence the question of the possible dates for the Pentagon's forthcoming tests of cruise missiles on Canadian territory. It is believed here that it is no accident that the White House has not forced the issue of cruise missiles tests at this stage, taking into account the opposition of the majority of the Canadian people to this Pentagon undertaking dangerous to Canada's national interests.

OW041818 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 4 May 83

The party was jointly sponsored by the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society. Attending the party were activists of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, representatives from all strata in Moscow and staff members of the Chinese Embassy led by (Gao Shikun), counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in the Soviet Union.

LD042251 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1830 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] China is not satisfied with the present state of Sino-American relations; the main obstacle in the development of these relations is the Taiwan question. This was stated by Zhang Wenjin, PRC ambassador to the United States, who was speaking in New York at the National Committee for U.S.-Chinese Relations. The ambassador said that China had made an important concession regarding deliveries to Taiwan as a legacy from history, and that the sides had outlined ways toward settling this question last August in their joint communique. But, as the saying goes, the ink had scarcely dried on this document when Washington once again announced arms deliveries to Taiwan; it intends to continue such deliveries.

The PRC ambassador also touched on the question of Sino-U.S. trade. According to agreements, the U.S. market should have been opened wider for Chinese goods, but the U.S. Government unilaterally imposed restrictions on the import of goods from China. It was stated that China's deficit in its trade with the United States in the 10 years from 1972-82 reached \$11 billion.

COMMENTARY PREVIEWS NAKASONE ASEAN TOUR

OW031139 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Today Prime Minister Nakasone began his tour of the five ASEAN countries and Brunei. Radio Moscow commentator Vasilij Alekseyev has the following comment to make on this subject:

Prime Minister Nakasone's tour is drawing attention from the Japanese and foreign mass media because the present Japanese Government's policy toward Southeast Asia, one of the most important areas for Japan from a diplomatic and economic point of view, is expected to be revealed. It must also be noted that this tour is being made against the background of the increasing militarist trends in Japanese policies and of Japan's ever-increasing cooperation, in the military and political fields, not only with the United States but also with NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Militarization in Japan is bound to raise fears among the Southeast Asian countries, and these fears surely will be reflected in the Japanese prime minister's trip. Prime Minister Nakasone has reiterated that he wishes to establish intimate ties with the leaders of the ASEAN countries and Brunei and to promote and develop economic, scientific, technical and cultural exchanges with these countries. But this general expression does not clarify the real nature of Japan's policy toward Southeast Asia. Therefore, it is fully anticipated that, as happened during his predecessors' trips, this policy will take concrete shape during Prime Minister Nakasone's current tour.

However, even at this moment, we can predict in what direction the prime minister's meetings with the ASEAN leaders will proceed, on the military-political level, on the one hand, and on the economic level on the other. All things considered, the major purpose of the current tour seems to be to allay the fears entertained by Asian countries, Southeast Asian countries in particular, concerning Japan's ever-accelerating militarism. NEWSWEEK pointed out that for many Asians, Japan's image as a bellicose and expansionist nation is not a mere figure of speech. When Prime Minister Nakasone met the ASEAN ambassadors to Japan on 20 April, these diplomats expressed their countries' misgivings about the military buildup in Japan.

How will Prime Minister Nakasone try to dispel these fears of the Southeast Asian countries? We can hazard an answer from the prime minister's meeting with journalists from the ASEAN countries. He told them that Japan's rearmament was being undertaken within the framework of the Constitution solely to beef up the country's defenses. He spoke as if the patrolling of sealanes stretching 1,000 miles from Japanese shores did not conflict with the interests of the Southeast Asian countries.

It has already been learned that Prime Minister Nakasone plans to issue a special statement in Kuala Lumpur on the last leg of his ASEAN tour, clarifying his controversial remarks about converting Japan into an unsinkable aircraft carrier. In the final analysis, it is up to the Southeast Asian politicians themselves to decide whether or not the Japanese Government's intention to patrol lanes in the open seas comes in conflict with regional security. But, more importantly, the Japanese Government's concrete actions are no more helpful than the prime minister's ambiguous statement in removing doubts about the true objectives of Japan's Southeast Asian policy.

The Japanese Government has expressed its readiness to block international straits alone, if need be, or in concert with the United States and South Korea. It has also expressed its intention to cooperate with the United States in offensive operations in the Far East. In fact, events are moving in the direction of drastically expanding the scope of the Japanese-U.S. security treaty.

Moreover, how to establish direct military ties between Japan and NATO, a military bloc, has become a problem. This move is bound to catch the eyes of the Southeast Asian countries.

The Japanese ruling circles are using the myth about the "Soviet threat" to justify a military buildup. It is the United States which is aiding them in this attempt. For instance, during his recent Southeast Asian tour, Defense Secretary Weinberger spoke as if that area had become a target of Moscow and clamored that the road to peace lies in a military buildup. This kind of reasoning is clearly arbitrary and unconvincing. This becomes all the more obvious when it is viewed in relation to the concrete proposals by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for establishing true relations of trust on the Asian Continent.

According to some observers, Prime Minister Nakasone plans to discuss the Indochinese situation during his ASEAN tour. Recently, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos made a number of constructive proposals concerning relations between the three Indochinese countries and the five ASEAN countries. Instead of the policy of supporting the enemy of the Kampuchean people, which will get nowhere, there is a way to implement these proposals and to convert Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and security, friendship and cooperation.

In Japan, importance is attached to the economic significance of the prime minister's current tour. Japan is not only the largest trade partner of the ASEAN countries but also the largest investor and provider of economic aid. We cannot but pay attention to the fact that oil-rich Brunei is included in Prime Minister Nakasone's tour itinerary.

Well, more and more complaints are being heard in the ASEAN countries about Japan, which is receiving far more from the ASEAN countries than it is giving to them. High Japanese tariffs which bar imports from the ASEAN countries are incurring the displeasure of these countries. ASEAN considers it urgent to solve those problems concerning its trade and economic relations with Japan so that they can be based on equality. Prime Minister Nakasone's current tour will provide an answer to the question of whether or not he will be able to meet this demand.

NEWSWEEK once said Japan is aiding those countries that aid her. It is not yet known what kind of aid Japan is seeking from ASEAN countries and Brunei. If Japan wants them to support the militarist trends in its politics, the people of Southeast Asia and the Japanese people will oppose it. What road Japan will take to promote its contacts with the outside world is a question to which all the Asian people cannot be indifferent because it concerns their fate. The louder the voices of the Japanese rearmament proponents, the stronger the doubts and fears of the Southeast Asian peoples will grow.

JAPAN CONTRIBUTING TO U.S. SPACE MILITARIZATION

LD050310 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 4 May 83

["Flouting the Opinion of the World Public" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

Increasingly sharing with Washington the "burden of responsibility" for fuelling tensions and conflicts and stepping up the arms race, Tokyo appears prepared to follow the U.S. Administration in plunging headlong into yet another adventure, namely to join in the race for the military uses of outer space, and to make its contribution to this common "enterprise" with the Pentagon.

Hardly several days had passed since the publication in the press of the appeal by prominent American scientists and public figures to the USA, the USSR and other countries active in space, to ban its military uses, when voices were raised in Japan calling on the country to move in the opposite direction. Obsessed with its military ambitions, the Japanese Defense Agency decided to use for its own exclusive ends the Japanese communications satellite Sakura-2A. It decided to use it for "assuring the activity" of a large naval and air force base now under construction on the island of Iwo Jima.

The Japanese press says that this base is to become a major staging area for "defending" maritime and air routes within the radius of 1000 miles from the Japanese islands. It is planned to establish here a centre, equipped with hightech electronic gear, for reconnaissance and directing the operations of Japanese armed forces to "establish control" over vast expanses of the western part of the Pacific.

During a debate in parliament, in arguing in favour of the position of the military circles, the chief of Japan's Scientific and Technological Department resorted to clear casuistry. Although space exploration in Japan, Takaaki Yasuda said, proceeds from the assumption of its peaceful uses, the question of whether the use by the "Self-Defence Force" of a particular satellite is a military or non-military act, "depends on the direction in which it is used".

But what other ends, except the military or "defence" ones (in Tokyo's current parlance), for which the Japanese military intend to use "Sakura-2A"? Flouting the parliament's legislative measures which unequivocally state that "space exploration must be limited only to peaceful aims", the Japanese military circles are drawing up their plans clearly with an eye to broad uses of space around the earth.

The plans provide not only for supporting the operations of the Japanese navy and air force within the 1000 mile zone around the Japanese islands, but also for launching a special spy satellite and other reconnaissance craft. According to Japanese press reports, also being canvassed is the question of Japan's direct participation in the Pentagon's space programmes, including the establishment of an ABM orbital system. As a sign of an "allied fidelity" to Washington, Tokyo has already agreed to allocate from the budget about 600 billion yen for the implementation of a joint project. And, importantly, the Pentagon has finally obtained access to the super-advanced Japanese technology whose achievements can henceforward be used in its space projects.

It is an open secret that the U.S. Administration links its strategic designs with the use of military space technology. Having bound itself by a "common destiny" with Washington, Tokyo is prepared to make its contribution to implementing these sinister designs, and hence, in an act of defiance to the world public opinion, to contribute to creating a threat in outer space to those living on the earth.

OKINAWANS PROTEST U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE

PM041343 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 83 First Edition p 5

[S. Logachev TASS report: "The Alarm and Protests of the Population of Okinawa"]

[Text] Kadena (Okinawa Prefecture), 29 Apr -- An immense field occupied by a military airfield and separated from the peasant plots by barbed wire, U.S. fighters, helicopters, and transport aircraft taking off and landing all the time -- this is the picture one sees from one of the hills overlooking Kadena, the Pentagon's biggest air base in the Far East.

The inhabitants of neighboring cities and settlements had assembled outside the gates of the base to angrily protest against the increasing U.S. military presence in Okinawa and the deployment of new types of weapons at numerous U.S. bases.

The previous day U.S. Navy F-14 fighters from the U.S. 7th Fleet's attack aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk" had landed at Kadena. One of the aircraft caught fire on landing, and it took the intervention of fire fighting teams to prevent the aircraft from blowing up.

The arrival at Kadena of fighters from the aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk" is new evidence of the Reagan administration's course toward even more active use of Okinawa in the Pentagon's global strategy, Masao Arime, chairman of the central Okinawa trade union association, said at a rally.

The commanders of the U.S. forces stationed on the island are ignoring the will of the Okinawans, who are resolutely against Okinawan territory being used by the military from across the ocean, Akira (Teriya), chairman of the local committee to combat U.S. bases in Okinawa, stressed at the rally. We intend to struggle resolutely to liquidate the Kadena Base and other Pentagon facilities, which are a grave danger to peace in the Far East, he said.

The Okinawan public is particularly alarmed by reports about U.S. nuclear weapons at Kadena, Yoshio (Kindzio), an antiwar movement activist and teacher from the city of Yomitan, told a TASS correspondent at the rally. Nuclear weapons have no place on Japanese soil -- this is the view of the Okinawans, who are demanding the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from the island and the return to the peasants of land which was taken away from them by force, land on which the Americans are currently holding sway, Y. (Kindzio) said.

SOVIET-JAPANESE SOCIETY CONGRESS HELD IN SAPPORO

PM050930 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 May 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "For Friendship and Cooperation"]

[Text] "Strengthen the friendship between the Japanese and Soviet peoples!" -- that was the slogan of the congress of the Hokkaido federation of the "Japan-USSR" Society held in Sapporo, TASS reports.

The congress was timed for the 25th anniversary of the federation's establishment. The forum delegates -- representatives of the public and political and business circles -- adopted a resolution calling for an expansion of comprehensive contacts between Hokkaido and areas of the Soviet Far East.

M. Ishimoto, federation chairman-elect, who addressed the congress participants, stressed the need to establish broad ties between Japan and the Soviet Union in the interests of developing the two countries' economies.

MORE ON U.S. DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ROK

LD041509 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 4 May 83

[Vladimir Korolev commentary]

[Text] According to a document THE WASHINGTON POST has at its disposal, South Korea is to harbor Lance missiles with neutron warheads. Besides, the American-made 8-inch neutron shells can be used by howitzers the United States has supplied the army of the puppet Seoul regime. The Pentagon intends to launch and production of 155-mm neutron shells which will also be shipped to South Korea, Analysts believe that President Reagan at his recent meeting in Washington with South Korea's foreign minister, Yi Pom-sok, discussed in detail a plan for turning South Korea into America's neutron arsenal.

The United States views South Korea as one of its major outposts in the Far East. It supplies the Seoul regime with the latest warships and combat planes. Last fiscal year Washington granted Seoul \$200 million to train South Korea's 600,000-man Army. In 1984 this so-called aid will amount to a quarter of a billion dollars. The United States has stationed in the south of Korea 40,000 of its servicemen and built 40 military bases there. This military contingent regularly gets new combat equipment and ammunition. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, at the moment there are 133 nuclear bombs to be delivered to their targets by aircraft deployed on South Korean soil and on board the U.S. ships cruising the coastal waters. Newspaper reports say that there are plans for stationing cruise missiles with nuclear warheads on board the ships belonging to the U.S. 7th Fleet, which has a base in the south of the Korean Peninsula. The chief of staff, U.S. Army General Mayer, has said that if necessary, America's armed forces stationed in South Korea will not hesitate to use nuclear weapons.

The danger of a military alliance between the United States and South Korea is (?aggravating) because of the plans for involving Japan in it. In the course of his trip to Seoul, Japan's Premier Nakasone promised South Korea \$4 billion, largely for military spending. Japan was indirectly involved in the recent U.S.-South Korean military exercises Team Spirit-83. It's not hard to guess who this triple military pact is directed against. At the time of America's aggression against Vietnam, South Korean troops fought on the side of the invaders and Japan placed its airfields at the disposal of American planes bombing Vietnam. (?So) the Asian nations feel justified concern watching the closing of military ties between Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, which has a negative effect not only on the situation in the region, but also on the state of affairs in the world at large.

U.S. AID TO AFGHAN COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES CONDEMNED

LD042300 Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 4 May 83

["Encroachment of International Law and Principles" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

Addressing journalists at a regular meeting in Washington Tuesday, State Department spokesman Romberg refused to answer the question whether the U.S. supplied weapons to Afghan counterrevolutionaries. This diplomatic "no comment" eloquently shows that the U.S. Administration has not given up its hostile actions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and its legitimate government and continues to use mercenary gangs to intervene in the internal [words indistinct] of that sovereign state.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reported today that President Reagan had taken a decision last autumn according to which the CIA, in particular, was to organize beginning with December last year supplies of anti-Afghan mercenary gangs entrenched in Pakistan with different types of weapons, including bazookas, mortars, rocket launchers, recoilless guns and light anti-aircraft rockets.

The U.S. Administration is constantly giving financial backing to the mercenaries, generously rewarding them for raiding the peaceful Afghan population and setting fire to schools, hospitals and mosques. According to the information supplied by official Afghan spokesman, during the past five years the United States has given Afghan counterrevolutionaries through different channels more than 300 million dollars intended for carrying on and escalating an undeclared war against Democratic Afghanistan. These actions of the U.S. Administration stand in stark conflict with international principles of state-to-state relations, demanding non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Governments are not expected to be bosom friends, of course, but Democratic Afghanistan, just like the USA, is a sovereign state and relations with it should be built in accordance with international law and a code of conduct in state-to-state relations.

The Reagan administration, however, disregards the practice of international relations and seeks to put itself above international law, to turn the clock back to the time when might was right and to impose its writ on other nations from positions of strength. The U.S. hostile and subversive actions against Democratic Afghanistan deserve the strongest condemnation.

The pointedly top level reception given by Washington to heads of Afghan counterrevolutionary gangs, the financing and arming of terrorists, in particular, with chemical weapons and deliberate and malicious slandering of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have become the day-to-day practice of the U.S. Administration with regard to Afghanistan and the Afghan people.

U.S. TO SUPPLY PAKISTAN INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT

PM041505 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 May 83 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report under general heading: "Whence the Threat"]

[Text] Delhi, 30 Apr -- The United States is transforming Pakistan into an electronic intelligence nest in South Asia.

As the newspaper JANG reports, referring to informed sources, Washington will supply the Pakistani authorities with electronic equipment designed to receive and decode pictures transmitted by American spy satellites. Preparations for the reception of this equipment are in full swing.

USSR GREETES BANGLADESH ON NATIONAL DAY

LD031612 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers have sent Assanuddin Chowdhury, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Ershad, chairman of the Council of Ministers, a telegram conveying congratulations and best wishes to the friendly people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the country's Independence Day.

In answering telegrams the president and the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bangladesh expressed their sincere gratitude for the congratulations.

[Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 4 May 1983, Morning Edition, front-pages a TASS report on this exchange of messages which adds the following paragraph: "The telegrams express the hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between both countries and peoples will continue to develop."]

USSR, INDIA SIGN PROTOCOL ON SPACE EXPERIMENTS

BK300921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on conducting scientific experiments during the joint space flight scheduled for next year. The protocol was signed in Moscow between the Soviet Intercosmos and a visiting Indian space scientists delegation. The experiments are to be conducted aboard Salyut-7 when the Indian cosmonauts take to space with their Soviet counterparts.

The head of the Indian delegation, Air Marshal C.V. Gole, told newsmen in Star City near Moscow that the joint research program calls for photographing some areas in India from the natural resources point of view. This could also be utilized for oil exploration.

PM050916 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 May 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In the Pentagon's Sights"]

[Text] Washington has begun to deploy cruise missile delivery vehicles -- the latest component of the U.S. nuclear forces -- in the Asia-Pacific region, TASS reports.

B-52G strategic bombers designated for firing cruise missiles have been transferred to Andersen U.S. Air Force Base on Guam to replace in the near future the old "D" models of the B-52 bombers already stationed there.

LD021949 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] Canberra, May 2 TASS -- Major naval exercises Valiant Usher-83 held off the Western coast of Australia have drawn to an end. During the exercises U.S. and Australian naval ships practiced service firing. Helicopter-borne assault operations and amphibious landings were also practiced. 4,000 U.S. Marines took part in the exercises.

Naval exercises code-named Readex-83 have begun in the north western part of the Pacific. Three Australian destroyers and a guided missile frigate are taking part in the exercises alongside U.S. and Canadian naval ships. After that from May 6 to June 4 Australian and U.S. troops will hold joint maneuvers within the framework of the program exercise Pacific Bond-83.

Apart from that Air Force exercises, involving U.S. strategic bombers B-52, are to begin over northern Australia on May 9. During the exercises the performance of a new radar station in Darwin will be tested.

Local observers note it was far from accidental that the schedule of military exercises and maneuvers is so "rigorous". A whole series of maneuvers is held on the eve of the arrival of a high-ranking Pentagon envoy, Vice-Admiral Sylvester Foley to Australia. Just like Admiral Robert Long, commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, who recently visited Australia, Sylvester Foley will try to receive from the leaders of the Laborite government fresh guarantees of the unhindered use by U.S. militarists of the territory of the country in pursuing Washington's adventurist policy.

PM041341 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 83 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Firm Positions"]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 3 May -- The Kampuchean revolution's positions are strong and firm. It is for precisely that reason that the governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] and the SRV have set about withdrawing the latest contingent of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea, a Kampuchean National Defense Ministry statement issued here says.

Particularly great importance, the statement points out, is attached to the further consolidation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army, which is achieving new successes in defense of the gains of the revolution and the elimination of the Pol Pot remnants and other groupings of Khmer reactions.

The fighters of the People's Revolutionary Army have won great victories during operations to purge the border regions of a number of provinces of the bands of Pol Pot holdouts and other counterrevolutionary groupings trained in Thailand and armed with U.S. weapons.

Thanks to the selfless labor of the entire people, the correct leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] and the aid of the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the other fraternal socialist countries, the revolutionary process in the PRK is gaining new strength. The Pol Pot regime's grave legacy is being overcome in all spheres. The republic's national economy is being successfully restored and the output of agricultural products is increasing rapidly. The country has embarked in earnest on the fulfillment of one of the tasks set by the Fourth KPRP Congress: complete self-sufficiency in food.

The PRK will continue to strengthen solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the other socialist countries and continue the building of a peaceful, independent, and nonaligned Kampuchea marching along the path of the building of the foundations of socialism, the PRK National Defense Ministry statement says.

USSR CONGRATULATES PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNOR

PM050928 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 83 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Telegrams Exchanged"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent Kingsford Dibela a telegram extending congratulations and good wishes to him on taking office as governor general of Papua New Guinea.

In a reply telegram K. Dibela expressed gratitude for the congratulations and good wishes.

HONECKER, DELEGATION CONTINUE VISIT TO USSR

Attend Ballet

LD042232 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 May 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Erich Honecker and the members of his delegation attended a performance of Dmitriy Shostakovich's ballet The Golden Century this evening at the USSR Bolshoy Theater. Comrades Tikhonov, Gromyko, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Rusakov and other officials were in the box along with the delegation. [Video shows, from left to right, Axen, Gromyko, Honecker, Tikhov, Stoph and Kuznetsov in front row of box, with Rushkov and Demichev in second row] Before the performance began the orchestra played the state anthems of both countries.

Rusakov, Delegation Visit Memorials

LD041730 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1300 GMT 4 May 83

[From the Vremya newscast; video shows Honecker, Stoph and other members of GDR delegation, Rusakov and Kostandov visiting the memorials]

[Text] Erich Honecker and the other members of his delegation today visited the Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath. They honored the memory of the creator of the CPSU and founder of the world's first socialist state with a minute's silence.

The German comrades paid a tribute of profound respect to Soviet troops who died in the struggle against fascism. They laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin Wall. The guests also laid flowers at the monument to Karl Marx, and honored the memory of the founder of scientific communism with a minute's silence.

The GDR delegation was accompanied by Comrade Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Kostandov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officials.

Honecker Departs for Alma-Ata

LD051039 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The party-state delegation of the German Democratic Republic, led by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, chairman of the GDR Council of State, today left Moscow for Alma-Ata. He is in our country on an official visit of friendship at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers.

At Vnukovo Airport, Erich Honecker and delegation members were cordially and fraternally seen off at the aircraft's steps by Comrades Andropov, Tikhonov, Gromyko, Ustinov, Kuznetsov and other officials. State flags of the GDR and the USSR were flown at the airport in honor of the guests. A guard of honor, comprising representatives of the three services of the USSR Armed Forces -- Army, Air Force, and Navy -- was mounted. The band performed the state anthems of the two countries.

Comrade Andropov and Honecker and other leading figures of the USSR and the GDR were greeted with warm applause by representatives of the capital's working people and by citizens of the GDR studying and working in Moscow, present at the airport. The GDR party and state delegation is being accompanied on its trip by: Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Kostandov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Maltsev, first deputy USSR foreign minister; Abrasimov, Soviet ambassador to the GDR; Bondarenko, head of a department at the USSR Foreign Ministry and other officials.

Comparison of Andropov Dinner Speech

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German on 4 May 83 carries on page 3 the toasts of Yuriy Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, and Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR Council of State chairman, at a dinner in honor of the party and state delegation of the GDR in the Kremlin in Moscow on 3 May. The NEUES DEUTSCHLAND report has been compared with the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA version published in the 4 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page F 6, revealing the following variations in the Andropov speech:

Paragraph seven, line one in NEUES DEUTSCHLAND reads: ...partners. At present, direct cooperation in production, the joint construction of important national economic projects, and the mutual assistance in developing high-efficiency technology and technology are playing an ever bigger role in our economic relations.

Advancement onward in.... (supplying additional sentence)

IZVESTIYA REPORTS GDR SENTENCE ON FRG 'SPY'

PMO41052 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Spy Sentenced"]

[Text] FRG citizen Georg (Srama) has been sentenced by the Military Collegium of the GDR Supreme Court to 11 years' imprisonment for espionage against the GDR.

As ADN reported, he was recruited by one of the FRG secret services and received special training. He systematically gathered data of a military nature. It was proved during the court investigation that the criminal had passed to NATO organs a number of pieces of information which harmed the interests of GDR security.

TASS CITES GDR NEWSPAPER ON FRG-GDR RELATIONS

LD041623 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Berlin May 4 TASS -- Under the heading "Concerning Relations Between the GDR and the FRG" the newspaper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of German published an article which says in part: The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Chairman of the GDR Council of State Erich Honecker has informed the FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl that in view of the latest events in relations between the FRG and the GDR he cannot visit the FRG. Responsibility for this is borne by those who created the aggravated atmosphere, who frustrated the intention to make normal the regular meetings between representatives of the two German states which could exert a favourable influence on relations between the GDR and the FRG and thereby on the situation in the centre of Europe.

After the events that happened nobody could be surprised by the message sent to the Federal Chancellor Kohl. In the long run nobody could ignore it since such warmongers as Strauss, Springer and the rest had deliberately created the present situation which is without precedent as regards hostility to the GDR. The aim of the warmongers is to delude the FRG citizens and to deploy new American medium-range nuclear missiles in 1983 contrary to the proclaimed will of the majority.

We remember: When the Federal Chancellor Kohl assumed office in Bonn one could often hear that in his foreign policy he will strive on the basis of the existing system of treaties to further consolidate the FRG in the Western alliance and at the same time continue the old Eastern policy. This statement was welcomed everywhere.

But in reality everything turned out differently, the paper writes. Although in the past months the GDR has absolutely clearly and precisely striven for good relations with Bonn and made its maximum in this respect, a cold wind, despite the spring, blew from the side of the FRG across the border between the two Germanies.

The GDR is not setting itself the aim of weakening the FRG's ties with NATO. At the same time the people in Bonn should not forget that the GDR too is a firm element of the socialist community. For this reason the deployment of the new United States nuclear systems, the Pershing-II missiles and the cruise missiles, would in no way facilitate the establishment of normal, not to mention good-neighbourly relations.

Nobody should forget that the GDR cannot be blackmailed, that any such attempt would be damaging not only to the GDR but also to the FRG and also West Berlin, which as is known, does not belong to the FRG and cannot be administered by it.

The GDR's position is characterised by continuity, constancy and reliability. On the basis of the concluded treaties we want to act and will act in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence in the interests of ensuring peace in Europe and developing good relations between the two German states.

PRAVDA CARRIES TRYBUNA LUDU ATTACK ON REAGAN

PM041131 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 83 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Rebuttal of Washington"]

[Text] Warsaw, 3 May -- Washington is continuing to pursue a policy of flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the sovereign Polish state, the newspaper TRYBUNA LUDU writes today in a commentary in connection with U.S. President R. Reagan's provocative "message" to the participants in the anti-Polish assemblage organized near the White House by a group of Polish renegades.

In Poland the May Day celebrations, during which 7 million Poles demonstrated their support for Poland's socialist development -- TRYBUNA LUDU writes -- were still continuing when the subversive U.S. radio station Radio Free Europe hurriedly began to broadcast this "message" in Polish. In the message the U.S. President is in fact encouraging the actions of the ringleaders of the antistate underground and the extremist groupings in Poland which have tried to organize acts of provocation and riots on the streets of several Polish cities.

Reagan's "message," replete with fabrications, the newspaper notes, was issued in the name of an administration which for over 2 years has been pursuing a policy of economic "sanctions" against Poland and which is imposing on its NATO allies discriminating measures in international trade. "Concern" for Poland is being displayed by a President who has ordered the expulsion of Polish fishermen from fishery zones and restricted air links with Poland, who bears responsibility for flagrant propaganda aggression against Poland aimed at setting Poles against each other and using the so-called "Polish question" to aggravate East-West relations. Phony "concern" for the Poles' destiny and lives is being proffered by a President who is seeking to deploy in West Europe awesome nuclear weapons targeted also on Polish cities.

The voices resounding from the White House do not mislead a single sane person. The leader of the administration pursuing this adventurist policy has no right, least of all a moral right, to teach other peoples, TRYBUNA LUDU writes in conclusion.

SOVIET WEEKLY SCORES ROMANIAN JOURNALIST'S BOOK

PM051126 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 May 83 p 8

[Pimen Buyanov article: "Raising Fists Against History: Marginal Notes to a Novel by Romanian Writer Dumitru Popescu" -- passages in capitals printed in boldface]

[Text] Reading the novel "The Fist and the Palm" by the Romanian journalist Dumitru Popescu gives you something to think about. I could not help recalling a scene I had witnessed not so long ago on the Schwarzenbergplatz, in the center of the Austrian capital. A group of thugs with swastikas and banners on the Hitlerite model were forging their way toward the monument to Soviet servicemen, raising their fists and shouting insults. The representatives of the authorities did not allow the hooligans to approach the monument. An old man emerged from the crowd of onlookers. Slowly and with difficulty, dragging one foot, he approached a raving fascist of about 25 and said to him in an even voice "Do not raise your fists against history, gentlemen. It ends badly...." And he tapped his stick against his artificial leg.

The knight of the red star, his banner unfurled, looked down on the whole scene from his great height....

Soviet readers are familiar with the works of the notable Romanian masters of literature who joined in the process of renewal of their long-suffering land immediately after the country's liberation from fascism in August 1944. Mihail Sadoveanu lauded the labor of the peasants who were allocated land. Tudor Arghezi created the "Song to Man," Geo Bogza wrote sketches full of optimism. Zaharia Stancu's "Barefoot Man" marched through many countries. The works of many other Romanian writers became widely known. Thanks to translators translating from the Romanian, the books of the fraternal country's writers became available to readers in the Soviet Union. The cause of mutual familiarization with our peoples' spiritual wealth, which started in postwar times, is developing and bearing fruit.

But at the same time an alarming trend toward reviewing what has long since been established and achieved has been making itself felt in Romanian literature in recent years. Some writers and journalists try to interpret history from a personal viewpoint, so to speak, without reckoning with actual events or even with the assessments given in official Romanian documents. They create, as it were, their own original interpretation of history, often in flagrant contradiction to the facts. All this is manifested most clearly in Dumitru Popescu's 3-volume novel "The Fist and the Palm," published by Bucharest's Eminescu Publishing House in 1980 and 1981.

I will confine myself to narrating the content of that part of the first two large volumes (about 1,000 pages!) where the author touches on the Soviet state's history and certain aspects of Marxist-Leninist theory.

The novel's main protagonist, Vlad Cernea, a man of 50 who has attained the post of chief of one of the main directorates at the Romanian Ministry of Education, goes to the Soviet Union as head of a delegation of workers in higher education. A 2-week trip lies ahead. It is Vlad Cernea's first visit to our country, and his interest in how Soviet people live, what their customs are, what they have retained of the heroes known to Cernea from 19th-century Russian literature, is quite natural. Who are they, the Soviet people, known to him from the "most important Russian books translated into Romanian since the war?"

Cernea "felt something unusual hovering in the atmosphere. He found Moscow frozen rigid in a kind of glassy air," and Leningrad at noon on a February day appeared to him to be "restless, gloomy, threatening like a cave, taking him back to unknown, terrifying geological eras when the earth still trailed behind it the horrors of chaos." The Romanian guests were taken straight from the station to the square dominated by "the city's savage, mysterious founder, known by the name of the Bronze Horseman. The square was shrouded in gloom as if in an eclipse of the sun, the sky did not exist...."

One gloomy picture succeeds another in the memory of the novel's hero. He recalls, for instance, the time after lunch in Moscow when they had to wait for something or other on the steps of a vast hotel located in "an eccentric zone of the city." Then Cernea watched Soviet men and women hurrying to the factory or perhaps to the station. They passed by in uniform "gray clothes...with the tired, heavy, strained walk of people who have grown old prematurely either from standing on their feet too long or from exhausting physical labor." Cernea likens the Soviet state's 50-year history to an endless wave of legends "which still continues to force millions of people to bow their heads in its shadow." Our country's post-October period is likened to the "weight of a whole millenium." As for assessing the characters of Soviet people, here too the author makes liberal use of black paint. For instance, he ironically mocks their hospitality. And the "information" he presents on Soviet women is so insulting that it would be embarrassing to quote the relevant parts of "The Fist and the Palm."

In his descriptions of Moscow and Leningrad and meetings with Soviet people, Dumitru Popescu scarcely lags behind those bourgeois writers and journalists who are dab hands at anti-Sovietism. At times the impression created is that the author has entered into competition with them and is trying with all his might to outstrip them. That is the conclusion you reach when you read the pages which talk about the Soviet Army and Soviet servicemen.

It is nearly four decades since the noise of battle died down in Europe and the red banner of the great victory was raised over the Reichstag. The Soviet soldier, who saved the world from the brown plague of fascism, covered himself in unfading glory. Words of profound gratitude to our country and the heroic Soviet Army have repeatedly been voiced by leaders of socialist Romania and are reflected in documents from the country's highest party and state forums.

Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of Romania, has said: "We honor the memory of the Soviet servicemen who gave their lives for Romania's liberation and overcame unprecedented difficulties to make the decisive contribution to the defeat of Hitler's Germany and mankind's salvation from the most terrible enemy."

Much has been written in Romanian books, journals and newspapers about the Soviet Army's mission of liberation and the humanity of the servicemen of October's motherland. I will quote just one extract from an article in the newspaper APARAREA PATRIEI ("Defense of the Motherland"), the central organ of the Romanian Ministry of National Defense: "If you gathered all the flowers with which the peoples greeted the Soviet liberator servicemen, there would be more than enough to encircle the globe. If you could collect all the fire which blazed in the eyes of the people who joyfully greeted the Soviet Army -- the deliverer -- the biggest fire ever lit would blaze out. That is the kind of serviceman raised by the great party created by Vladimir Ilich Lenin! It is our good fortune to be that serviceman's comrade-in-arms."

How do certain episodes from Dumitru Popescu's novel look against that background?

...The chairman of a Romanian district court (understand -- a participant in the war against the USSR) was a Soviet prisoner. At a reception in Bucharest, inflamed by a fair dose of alcohol, he unburdens himself to the book's inquisitive hero. This confession is highly unusual, it is all but in the spirit of the notorious propaganda of Goebbels. The author is lavish with his descriptions of the cruelties of Soviet "Asians." Incidentally, here, as elsewhere, he says not a word about why Romanian soldiers suddenly turned up at Stalingrad. Obviously he finds that rather inconvenient....

It is not clear why the author needed scenes which distort the moral make up of the liberator soldier, the face of the Soviet Army and the nature of the last war.

But the answer to this question can be found in the novel itself. It becomes clear that "amending textbooks and lecture courses was the ministry's central task, and Cernea devoted most of his time to this. All school disciplines, almost without exception, and to be freed of ballast...." An old history professor who has long languished with nothing to do is brought in by Cernea to compile new textbooks, and he declares the need to "DISCARD A WHOLE HEAP OF GARBAGE AND CREATE THE HISTORY BOOK WHICH IS NEEDED".

The old teacher's experience of those "fine years long ago, those fine times long ago" proves very useful. At a conference at the university rectorate this professor expounds his creed, cursing textbooks in which (horrors!) princes and lords are called feudalists and exploiters, while "the bourgeoisie is sheer filth from the cradle to the grave." In the professor's opinion those who permitted themselves to make such assertions in Romanian textbooks pursued just one goal -- that of "dismembering our national state and destroying the Romanian people's foundations." The room became uneasy, the rector asked the speaker to be more careful with such remarks, but directorate chief Cernea "warmly and energetically" congratulated and thanked his teacher.

The novel contains many topics, an abundance of characters and endless talk, debates and thought. I will cite just one example. This time the discussion concerns Marxism. One of the book's heroes is touring Scandinavia. Electronics, neon advertising, splendid freeways, hotels, bars, Mercedes cars.... True, against that background there are large numbers of unemployed people deprived of the means to exist. Which does not prevent the author from asking, through his hero: "How can Marx' fundamental theory be reconciled with this evolution of capitalism? Why does the mighty development of production forces, in the conditions of private ownership fetters, smooth out contradictions instead of exacerbating them? Why does nobody try to give a scientific explanation of this REFUTATION OF MARXIST PROPHECIES?"

Can a character in a book reason in this way? Of course, there are such people. But the "inhabitants" of any book are not only in the power of their own emotions, sympathies and antipathies. They are in the author's power. He is their judge and the arbiter of their destinies. That is elementary. And I will not develop this idea. I will only say that in the two books of the novel "The Fist and the Palm" the authors stance is expressed through his heroes. And they -- the major and minor characters -- are a totally unrestrained, spontaneous, embittered mass, sometimes displaying an elementary ignorance, united only by a single goal -- that of meeting out reprisals to history and shaking their fists at it. And the author is merely "present," but silent, and that means he agrees with them. A rather strange stance, to put it mildly.

ROMANIAN ARTICLE PROMPTS SOVIET RESPONSE

For the text of the CONTEMPORANUL article by Vasile Iota criticized by NOVOYE VREMYA No 16 1983, published in the 27 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT on page F 2, see JPRS 83409, 5 May 1983, No 2137, EASTERN EUROPE POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

WEEKLY URGES NORMALIZED TIES WITH ALBANIA

AU031445 Moscow in Albanian to Albania 1430 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] The Soviet weekly "ARGUMENTS AND FACTS" of the Znaniye Association publishes in its latest issue an article entitled "On the Question of Soviet-Albanian Relations." The article is published at the request of its readers. Its author tells us about the cooperation between our countries in the postwar period, which was successfully carried out based on the principles of proletarian internationalism, equality, respect for national independence and sovereignty, noninterference and mutual aid and support.

As was emphasized in a document of the Albanian Government during those years, Albania's relations with the Soviet Union have always been principled and correct. Mistakes, distortions, or any sign of interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Albania were never allowed in these relations. But, at the beginning of the sixties, the Albanian leadership, changing its political course, cut off political, economic and cultural ties with the Soviet Union and limited its relations with the other countries of the socialist family.

The article states further on that led by socialism's common interests, by the feeling of sincere sympathy toward the fraternal Albanian people, the CPSU and the Soviet Government have shown more than once their readiness to normalize Soviet-Albanian relations. The principled stand of the Soviet Union on normalizing relations with Albania was set forth in the 23rd and 24th CPSU Congresses. The article says in conclusion that the Soviet Union's position toward the People's Socialist Republic of Albania continues to be consistent.

The CPSU and the Soviet state sincerely desire the development and improvement of relations with all socialist countries. This was pointed out at the CPSU Central Committee plenum in November 1982. The plenum emphasized that mutual good will, respect for each other's legitimate interests, common concern for the interests of socialism and peace should show the correct solutions even where, for various reasons, there has not been until now the desired trust and understanding.

KOHL ON NEED FOR 'GOOD RELATIONS' WITH EAST, WEST

LD041140 Moscow TASS in English 1114 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Bonn May 4 TASS -- West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl made the first government statement at the Bundestag today, setting out the main guidelines of the foreign and domestic policy of his cabinet which includes representatives of the Christian Democratic Union, the Christian Social Union and the Free Democratic Party. The North Atlantic Alliance and the EEC, he said, remain the foundation of the FRG's foreign policy. "Firm and deep-rooted friendship with the United States remains the core of NATO," the chancellor stressed.

The head of the West German Government pointed out at the same time that the experience of history and the geographical situation of West Germany demand that it maintain "good relations both with West and East." We deem it necessary to strive for a qualitative improvement in relations with the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty member-states. We are striving for dialogue with East European countries, especially the USSR, at all levels, Helmut Kohl stressed. This summer I will pay a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov. I view it as very important to meet personally with the new leadership of the Soviet Union and discuss with them our problems and interests. I intend, if we reach an accord, to continue the dialogue with certain periodicity. Given good will, there exist wide prospects for cooperation in the political, economic, scientific and cultural areas.

KOHL, SPAIN'S GONZALEZ HOLD TALKS ON EEC, NATO

LD031933 Moscow TASS in English 1856 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Bonn May 3 TASS -- The problems of Spain's relations with NATO and its joining of the Common Market are in the centre of the talks between the FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the chairman of the Spanish Government Felipe Gonzalez, who has arrived here on an official visit.

The head of the Spanish Cabinet told a press conference here today that his country will adopt the final decision on relations with the North Atlantic bloc only after a referendum on this issue. He recalled that at present Spain has frozen the process of joining the NATO military organization. At the same time Gonzalez said that Spain "is a part of the Atlantic alliance."

On his part Helmut Kohl supported the plans of Spain's joining of the Common Market. The FRG will "vigorously assist this," he said. It is noted in this connection that by drawing Spain into the EEC Bonn wants to create favourable conditions for settling [in] that country the output of West German monopolies and also for influencing Madrid's foreign policy course. Special importance is being acquired by the fact that the NATO countries are trying to link the question of granting Spain membership in the EEC with its participation in NATO.

FRG CONDUCTING 'SLANDER CAMPAIGN' AGAINST GDR

PM041615 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 83 Second Edition p 5

[Report by correspondent M. Podklyuchnikov: "No Stopping the Slanderers"]

[Text] West Berlin, 27 Apr -- The West Berlin public is following with increasing alarm the inflammatory propaganda campaign launched by extreme right-wing West German and West Berlin circles against the GDR.

The pretext is the death from a heart attack of the FRG citizen (Burkert) traveling through the GDR to West Berlin. And although the findings of expert GDR and FRG pathologists, published in the press, leave no room for slanderous fabrications, the inflammatory campaign is growing. It is inspired by the notorious leader of West German reaction, Strauss, and the owner of the newspaper concern, Springer.

The slanderers and inciters' main target is the transit agreement concluded between the GDR and FRG in 1971. As is known, it is closely linked to the treaty on the principles of relations between the GDR and the FRG and other accords which exist between the two German states. The transit agreement is one component of the European system of treaties which represents the foundation of peace and security in the center of our continent. Since it was signed it has made a substantial contribution to the elimination of tension and the prevention of complications in relations between the GDR and FRG and to the stabilization of the West Berlin situation.

The West Berlin press notes that the organizers of the unbridled campaign against the GDR obviously want to set relations between the two German states back dramatically, create tension on the border between them and generate a cold war atmosphere. This is the specific purpose of the FRG extreme right-wing forces' demand for "free access" to West Berlin, which has nothing to do with existing treaties and agreements, and other demands.

The long-term aim of the slander campaign against the GDR is to poison the atmosphere in the center of Europe and thus create for the United States, as the paper DIE WARHEIT writes, the climate it needs for the deployment there of the new mass destruction weapons -- medium-sized missiles.

The GDR is resolutely rebuffing the intrigues of the enemies of peace. A commentary published by ADN says that the GDR consistently advocates strict observance and full application of the concluded treaties. Only on this basis can relations between the two German states be good-neighborly.

BRITISH MILITARY BUILDUP IN FALKLANDS DISCUSSED

LD031846 Moscow TASS in English 1714 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Moscow May 3 TASS -- TASS Commentator Vyacheslav Kuznetsov writes:

Military passions are again running high in the White Hall. As is reported by the London newspaper "DAILY TELEGRAPH" today, a British squadron has sailed from the ports of Portsmouth and Plymouth to the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, by the government's order. The squadron of warships, which includes five missile destroyers and frigates tankers is accompanied by a nuclear submarine. [sentence as received] In the area of the Falkland Islands there are now at least six British warships, and therefore it becomes clear that the Margaret Thatcher conservative government has stepped on the path of heightening military psychosis in the South Atlantic area.

Vigorous military activity is under way on the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands themselves. New airdromes are being built there, radar stations are being installed and additional barracks are under construction for a many-thousand-strong British garrison. London obviously intends to turn that archipelago into a big British strategic base in the South Atlantic and to rule out a possibility of a political, negotiated solution of the dispute over the islands.

The Margaret Thatcher government inspired an anti-Argentinian campaign of slander in the British press. Thus, the self-same extremely right-wing DAILY TELEGRAPH asserts that the sending of the squadron to the Falkland Islands has allegedly been prompted by the government's apprehensions that Argentina might mark May 25 -- the anniversary of the May revolution by "attacking" the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands.

The impression is that while fanning up military hullabaloo around the Malvinas the Conservative government simultaneously seeks to make Britons "forget" though for a time Britain's very acute socio-economic problems -- the unprecedented growth of unemployment, inflation, bankruptcies, curtailment of industrial production.

Noteworthy is the time chosen for the campaign. Political observers believe that Margaret Thatcher might schedule new general elections for June this year, hoping with the help of pseudo-patriotism to cover up the deplorable results of her economic policy and win additional numbers of votes.

PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES NOTED

LD031709 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Lisbon May 3 TASS -- It has been officially announced here that Portugal participates in NATO military exercises codenamed "Locked Gate-83" which began in the area of Gibraltar today. 27 warships, 43 planes and about 2,200 officers and men are involved in the exercises. Exercises will partly be held in Portugal's airspace.

PORTUGAL, U.S. NEGOTIATE ON AZORES AIRBASE

LD031939 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Lisbon May 3 TASS -- A new round of Portuguese-American negotiations on prolongation of the treaty on the lease of the Lages Airbase on the Terceira Island has begun in Ponta Delgado, the Azores. The term of the previous agreement expired on February 3, but it remains in force for another year by mutual agreement.

The United States is going to enlarge and modernize the base and the establish additional oil depots on it. The signing of the treaty, local newspapers point out, will become possible only after formation of a new government of Portugal.

INSTALLATION OF 'MISSILE BASE' IN SICILY VIEWED

LD050244 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 4 May 83

["Stepping Up Preparations for Missiles Deployment" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- The arrival is expected within several days in Sicily of the first group of U.S. servicemen of the personnel of two thousands of the missile-nuclear base that is being set up on an island near the town of Comiso. This is said in a report from Rome, published in today's IZVESTIYA. Italian newspapers report that the rest of the missile men are to arrive in October. 112 cruise missiles are to be deployed at the base. They will be trained not only on the southern part of the Soviet Union's European territory, but also on the entire vast area of the Mediterranean with Sicily at its centre.

Thus, the making of the island into a Pentagon's nuclear outpost is becoming a reality.

The setting up of the missile base in Sicily leads to a further militarization of the island and of the vast region of southern Italy, adjoining to it. Different military facilities are being set up in Sicily in this connection.

The Italian press reported, among other things, that near the town of Trapani on the western tip of the island yet another base is under construction, which, judging by everything, is also intended for deploying new nuclear missiles.

The stepping up of the establishment of a base in Comiso, IZVESTIYA correspondent Nikolay Paklin says, clearly confirms the U.S. intention to go to any length to deploy medium range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. And there is no question of "linking" their deployment with the process of negotiations in Geneva. Washington needs the missiles in order to achieve a unilateral military advantage over the Soviet Union and to make the peoples of the West European countries its nuclear hostages.

DETERIORATION IN U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS NOTED

LD262308 Moscow TASS in English 1755 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS -- TASS observer Yuriy Borisov writes:

Relations between Greece and the United States have aggravated markedly in recent days. Spokesman for the U.S. State Department Romberg expressed "regret" in this connection.

But such expressions of "regret" are hypocritical. The point of the matter is that the U.S. Administration obviously blackmails the Greek Government to compel it to conclude a new agreement on U.S. military bases on the Greek territory on terms, which in the opinion of Greeks, would contradict their national interests.

Apparently in purposes of exerting pressure on Greece, the U.S. Administration sent on an official visit to Turkey U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Richard Burt. In the statement he made in Turkey, he said that Washington intends to increase its military aid to Turkey. The Turkish military have considerable needs and the United States strives to assist them to the utmost, Burt said.

The statement with which Burt came out in Ankara caused a profound indignation in Greece and not without reason. Greek politicians and the Greek press pointed out many times that U.S. armaments supplied to Turkey were used more than once to the detriment of Greece's interests.

In these conditions Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou did not deem it possible to receive the American emissary.

As to the U.S.-Greek talks on military bases, the Greek Government disrupted them since the Reagan administration clearly has no wish to respect Greece's sovereignty.

A gross pressure of the U.S. Administration on Greece caused a wave of mass protests all over the country. Demonstrations of many thousands were held in Athens, Salonika, Piraeus, and other cities. Their participants demanded the liquidation of U.S. military bases on Greece's territory and Greece's quitting the NATO bloc.

COMMENT ON U.S. 'DISTORTION' OF SOVIET IRAN POLICY

NC050848 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Yesterday the USSR Foreign Ministry sent a note to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in connection with the U.S. Administration's deliberate distortion of Soviet policy toward Iran.

Our commentator, Igor Sheftunov, writes:

Washington has been recently spreading more and more baseless rumors and fabrications every day alleging that Iran faces the threat of a Soviet attack and that allegedly a danger threatens Iran from the north. It is easy to understand what objective Washington is pursuing by publishing such forged and slanderous reports on the Soviet Union's policy toward Iran.

We know that the present U.S. Administration's actions in various parts of the world are extremely aggressive in nature. In the proximity of its own territory, the United States has started an undeclared war against Nicaragua. It is stifling the freedom-loving people of El Salvador and is continuing its instigations against Cuba and other independent nations in the Western Hemisphere. Parallel with these efforts, a few thousand miles away from the United States, Washington is using its puppet, Israel, to fight against the Arab nations and is paving the way for direct aggression against Syria -- an independent country.

The United States is expanding the scale of its aggressive preparations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These preparations are a direct threat to Iran's independence. The stationing of U.S. warships armed with nuclear weapons near Iran's coasts, the deployment of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in Oman, Turkey, Pakistan and other pro-Washington Southwest Asian countries, the expansion of existing U.S. military bases in this region, the building of new bases and the holding of regular aggressive military maneuvers by U.S. forces with the participation of other NATO member-countries near Iran's borders -- all these military and other similar acts by the United States aggravate the situation around Iran. The final objective behind all these things is to destroy the gains of the revolution of the Iranian people and to revive a situation in which, according to Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati, your country had actually turned into America's 51st state.

In order to deflect the attention of the world's social circles from its aggressive preparations, the United States is publishing forged and slanderous reports on the Soviet Union's policy toward Iran. As pointed out in the Soviet Union's Foreign Ministry note to the U.S. Government, there has been no threat to Iran from the USSR and none exists now.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly declared, including at the highest levels, that it stands for the development of normal good-neighborly relations with Iran, based on the principles of mutually advantageous cooperation. It has proved this by its practical deeds as well. Each Iranian is aware of what these practical deeds are. When, after the Iranian revolution, the United States and its allies declared an economic siege on the newly established Islamic Republic, the Soviet Union, on the contrary, granted Iran the right to move its goods through Soviet territory. When, as a result of efforts by imperialist companies, many production units affiliated to these companies were closed down in Iran, industrial units built with Soviet cooperation not only operated uninterruptedly but also increased production, and the construction of production units, with the assistance of Soviet experts, continued.

The policy of political and economic pressure on Iran, which is followed by the United States and its allies, is completely contrary to the policy of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries toward Iran, the objective of which is to expand good-neighborly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation.

Washington is very eager to conceal the fact that what seriously threatens peace in the Persian Gulf region, including Iran's security, are the actions of the United States. And now, in a bid to deflect the attention of the world's social circles from these criminal acts, the United States is making slanderous assertions concerning the Soviet Union's good-neighborly policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

UNITY AMONG IRAN'S 'PATRIOTIC' FORCES URGED

NC041042 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 3 May 83

[Vera Lebedeva commentary]

[Text] Dear friends, I want to start my commentary today with a reference to an incident that took place in your country 32 years ago. I am referring to the approval and enforcement of the bill on the nationalization of Iran's oil industry. That era was the period during which Iran's anti-imperialist movement was growing and a time when your country's patriotic forces were united. Although the U.S. and British imperialists and domestic reaction resorted to various means to prevent the approval of the oil nationalization bill, nevertheless the bill was approved by the government and the Majlis.

Our listeners are aware of the fact that the imperialists and their puppets in Iran were later able to diminish the significance of the oil nationalization law and to replace the dissolved British-Iranian oil company with a larger and greedier imperialist monster -- the international oil consortium. With the assistance of the consortium, in which U.S. companies played the main role, the imperialists prolonged the plundering of Iran's black gold for another 25 years.

Now, more than 30 years later, we have the right to ask why the imperialists and reaction were able to implement their plans? Why were the Iranian people, who showed devotion in their struggles to gain their national wealth, unable at that time to successfully fight the enemies' machinations? The fact, first and foremost, is that the main objective behind the imperialists' treacherous plans for Iran was to support the shah's shaky regime, to spread discord among the various patriotic forces of your country and to put these forces at each other's throats. The CIA, which is greatly experienced in such acts, started action immediately. A high-ranking CIA official, Copeland, arrived in Iran and undertook to pave the way for and to implement the 19 August [1953] coup. Mohammad Reza who, fearing the people's great rage, had impotently fled Iran, was once again seated on the throne. Zahedi, the puppet of U.S. imperialism, was placed at the head of the government. Thus, the hand of Iran's reaction, with the help of the CIA, was left open, and unprecedented extortion against your country's progressive forces started. Strugglers for freedom and democracy -- people, who a short time ago, had been devotedly struggling toward the enactment of the oil nationalization law -- were thrust into the shah's dungeons. They were representatives of various political parties and movements who, not very long ago, acted jointly and formed a considerable force which confronted the shah's regime.

I think that if, at that time, the Iranian patriots had prevented the creation of a schism among their ranks and had formed a common front in the struggles against their opponents, the 19 August coup would not have reached its objective. But the past cannot be returned and history cannot be rewritten. What can be done is to learn a lesson from the past so that a similar mistake can be prevented at present.

Now, too, the U.S. imperialists are trying to obstruct the achievement of the objectives set by the Iranian revolution. Similar to 30 years ago when, the U.S.' imperialists refused to implement the oil nationalization law, today, too, they are attaching hopes to Iran's reactionary elements, to monarchists and to unpunished Savakists. Now, too, the U.S. imperialists are striving to create any kind of discord among Iran's patriotic forces and are prosecuting those who, some time ago, were devotedly struggling in the revolution's positions. Like many years ago, today, too, CIA agents are acting against Iran. They have been ordered to calumniate the strugglers of the revolution, to cast them out of the political scene and to destroy them. (Even) a high-ranking CIA figure like Copeland who led the 19 August coup was in charge of the landing of U.S. commandos in the Tabas region.

As we have seen, the past and the present are closely connected. The experience of all liberation movements and revolutions teaches that it is not sufficient to defeat the enemy. Victory should be defended. Victory should be strengthened and possibilities created so that masses can use it. The experience of the devoted struggles of the Iranian people and their revolution proves this point. This experience shows that only with unity, solidarity and joint support can Iran's patriots successfully confront the machinations by imperialism and reaction and strive toward the realization of objectives for which they jointly struggled.

Dear friends, I end my talk for today and I thank you for your attention.

TASS INTERVIEWS PDRY LEADER ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY

LD042256 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Aden May 4 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov, paying a visit to Aden, put several questions to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], in connection with the 20th anniversary of the people's revolution which the country will mark on October 14.

Q. South Yemen has for 16 years now been developing as a free sovereign state. What do you think is the hallmark of this development?

A. Our main achievement is the fact that South Yemen has been ridden of colonial dependence forever. Having won political independence in 1967, our people initiated deep-going progressive changes. Our state achieved economic independence.

The ever close cohesion of the mass of the population around the Yemen Socialist Party is positive proof of the correctness of our chosen course and of the strength and firmness of our system.

Q. What do you think of prospects for Soviet-Yemeni cooperation?

A. Relations between our countries are being developed on a principled basis: Both sides advocate the building of a new life and reject exploitation and injustice. Large-scale cooperation between the two countries in the economic, cultural, social and other fields is developing on the same principled basis. Yemeni-Soviet friendship is for our party and our people one of the major guarantees and conditions of the effective accomplishment of the tasks set by the revolution.

Q. Your country, like other countries all over the world, has to reckon with the international situation, which has further aggravated during the recent period....

A. This is true. During the past few years the imperialist forces have grown more aggressive and their feverish efforts to whip up the arms race have further escalated.

Rejecting the constructive proposals of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty countries, the imperialist forces, first and foremost the U.S. imperialists, are pressing recklessly forward and are prepared to launch any venture. But they will never carry through their aggressive plans and achieve their aggressive goals. The whole of progressive mankind is standing up for and protecting peace.

The aggravation of the situation in the Middle East is a direct consequence of the aggressive imperialist policy of the U.S. and Israel. The latest war unleashed by Tel Aviv has ultimately demonstrated that U.S. imperialism and Zionism are the sworn enemies of the Arab peoples and of world peace. In view of the developments in the Middle East we in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen regard it as our duty to continue giving support to the struggle waged by the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, to strengthen a strategic alliance and friendship with socialist countries and to give a rebuff to acts of provocation and aggression launched by imperialism and Zionism.

FURTHER COMMENT ON SHULTZ VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

Israeli Withdrawal Not Discussed

LD041331 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 4 May 83

["Within Framework of Anti-Arab Alliance" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- By TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasil'yev:

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is continuing his Middle East tour. The past developments show that each trip by a highly placed official of the U.S. Administration in that explosive region is not only accompanied by higher tension, but also reveals once again the true objectives of the U.S. Middle East policy. George Shultz's current tour, officially aimed to search for peace and achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon, is no exception.

With the beginning of the trip by the American emissary, Israel sharply stepped up war preparations along the line of contact with the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon deployed in the Al-Biq'a Valley. The Israeli military continue armed provocations in the region, move there tanks, artillery and fresh troops. The preparation for aggression is accompanied by Tel Aviv's brazen threats against Syria.

On the other hand, the U.S. secretary of state's first contacts in Jerusalem showed that the issue of the Israeli troops withdrawal from Lebanon, as unequivocally demanded by the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, is not included into the agenda. Talks between George Shultz and Lebanese leaders revealed that his main efforts are directed at imposing on Lebanon the fettering capitulatory terms of peace Israeli style and turning that sovereign Arab country into an American-Israeli domain, into a staging area for aggression against neighbouring countries. In other words, Washington, coordinating its actions with Tel Aviv and seeking to take advantage of the fruits of the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, is trying to save the notorious "Reagan plan", now on the brink of collapse and rejected by the overwhelming majority of Arabs. Undoubtedly, implementation of that plan, which ignores the key elements of the Middle East settlement, would mean a loss by many Arab countries of independence and their subordination to the American-Israeli diktat.

No demagogic prattling about "peace" and "balanced approach" of the U.S. Middle East policy can conceal the obvious fact that Israel continues to occupy the native Arab lands and contemplates new bandit forays against Arab neighbours, whereas the United States has and is extending all-round military, political and economic support for the aggressors within the framework of the Washington-Tel Aviv strategic anti-Arab military-political alliance, and implements a course towards escalating its direct military presence in the region.

The criminal actions by Israel, its allies and henchmen are the main obstacle in the way of a really fair and durable peace in the Middle East, posing a threat to the independence and security of the countries and peoples in the region.

Lebanon Rejects U.S. 'Pressure'

PM031053 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 May 83 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by correspondent R. Moseyev: "They Reject Pressure"]

[Text] Beirut, 30 Apr -- The reports from Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley are becoming increasingly disquieting. Having occupied the southern part of the valley Tel Aviv is continuing to concentrate its forces there and is obviously preparing for an attack on Syria.

In the region of the populated center of 'Ayn-'Ata Israeli units have carried out maneuvers continuing even at night. Taking part were heavy artillery, tanks and armored transport carriers. Using illuminating rockets, the Zionists rehearsed what newspapers here call "offensive operations under nocturnal conditions."

Political observers here note that U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz' talks with Lebanese leaders have been held in an atmosphere of overt pressure. The Lebanese newspapers note that G. Shultz actually defended to the Lebanese the crushing terms of capitulation which the Israeli aggressors are seeking from Beirut.

"Lebanon has been and remains part of the Arab world and will not sign the 'peace treaty' with Israel which is being imposed on it," Lebanese Foreign Minister E. Salim stated, addressing journalists. He again demanded the immediate liberation of the Lebanese territory seized by Israel.

Rejecting the pressure from the United States, the Lebanese patriots are activating combat operations against the interventionists. They recently mounted three bold armed operations in the south of the country. In Sidon partisans organized an explosion on one of the main streets as a convoy of Israeli trucks was passing along it. As a result 12 occupiers were killed or wounded. The Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ admits that in the past 7 months the Lebanese patriots have carried out a total of 652 guerrilla actions.

Syria, PLO Support Lebanon

LD032102 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 3 May 83

[From "Window on the Arab world" program presented by A. Timoshkin]

[Text] For 2 successive weeks U.S. Secretary of State Shultz has been shuttling between occupied Jerusalem and Beirut in an attempt to compel the Lebanese Government to actually capitulate to the Israeli aggressors. Despite the superiority of the forces of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance over this small Arab state, however, this state continues firmly to defend its sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity.

Syria and the PLO fully support this stand by the Lebanese Government, fully determined to foil Washington's and Tel Aviv's evil plans directed not only against Lebanon but against the entire Arab world. Both Syria and the PLO are preparing to reply to Israel's aggression, which could take place at any moment under the cover of George Shultz's so-called peace mission.

The Arab and nonaligned countries' press is currently saying that through Secretary of State Shultz Washington is playing a game of duplicity in the Middle East. On one hand, members of Reagan's team allege -- for propaganda reasons -- that they want to force Israel to halt its aggressive line; on the other hand, they decide to increase military and economic aid to Tel Aviv. Therefore, the HINDUSTAN TIMES quite rightly writes that despite Washington's verbal (?warnings), Tel Aviv continues to take a harder line. Even some U.S. propaganda media admit that the Arabs are right to regard Shultz's mission as a link in the chain of U.S. plots in the Middle East aimed at expanding and intensifying its military and other presence and also to assist Israel in gaining the most possible from its aggression against the Arabs.

Soviet Policy Cited

LD042331 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 4 May 83

[From "Window on the Arab World" program by Sergey (Lrylov)]

[Text] While U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz continues his shuttle between Lebanon and Israel trying to prove that the Reagan Middle East settlement plan is still alive, Israel has been escalating its preparations for aggression against Syria, sending new tanks and mechanized infantry units to the Al-Biqa' Valley. As the correspondent of the Beirut paper AS-SAFIR writes, Israel now has four armored divisions and three fortified mechanized brigades and a large number of guns at the point of contact with the Syrian forces. The military commentator of the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA has written that the Israeli strike, by all indications, will take two directions: Damascus and Homs from Lebanon and from the Golan Heights in the south.

It is noteworthy that Washington and Tel Aviv have been trying in this extremely tense situation to depict Israel's actions as nothing but defensive and consequently they are legitimate. Both Shultz and Begin have said this. But we wish to remind people that Washington and Tel Aviv pursued a similar line prior to the invasion of Lebanon last summer. The United States and Israel are trying to describe Syria's defensive measures as an aggressive act and are also trying to distort the Soviet position, so much so that U.S. Under Secretary of State Eagleberger stated without batting an eyelash in an American television interview that behind the Soviet military aid to Syria lies the U.S. [as heard] intention to expand its military presence in the Middle East and undermine the Middle East peace process which had begun with the help of the United States, as Eagleberger alleges.

We believe there can be no lies uglier than these as the USSR's attitude is clear and precise. The USSR has helped the Arab countries, at their request, to reinforce their military capabilities without seeking any selfish objectives from that. The USSR constantly demands elimination of all causes of tension in the area as soon as possible and the creation of a just peace through constructive dialogue with the participation of all the parties concerned including, of course, the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

LEBANESE CP LEADER COMMENTS ON MIDEAST SITUATION

LD042323 Moscow In Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 4 May 83

[From "Window on the Arab world" program presented by Sergey (Lrylov); commentary by George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party]

[Text] All indications point to the fact that matters have not been settled in Lebanon and that in the end they will not be settled in the interests of Israel and the United States. The apparent success of the American-Israeli design is both temporary and superficial. Our people and our national forces led by the communists will not permit Israeli domination to continue in the country, nor will they permit the replacement of Israeli domination by a U.S. domination that is no less dangerous. The Lebanese arena will constantly remain an obstacle in the way of the imposition of capitulation on our Arab nation. Syrian nationalism and the bolstering of Syria's defensive capability constitute a principal obstacle to the U.S. plan to dominate the area. Perhaps the most important factor in our steadfastness lies in the world progressive support for our struggle particularly the attitude of the socialist countries headed by the USSR.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS U.S. CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY

PM050935 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 83 Morning Edition p 4

[R. Tuchnin article: "But Who Are the Judges?"]

[Text] For some time now the U.S. Administration has had its sights set firmly on Central America. What is happening in this part of the world is riveting the attention of leading Washington figures, causing controversy in Congress, and eliciting a plethora of reflections and assessments from local political observers. President Reagan's address at a joint session of both houses of the U.S. Congress was, you might say, the "peak" of this activity.

But however much all of these pronouncements have differed in nuances, they have a common denominator gradually imposed by the White House -- that developments in the Central American region have reached the fatal point when U.S. interests are seriously threatened. Proceeding from this absurd premise, Washington's "hawks" are sparing no effort to create an atmosphere of extreme chauvinist hysteria around it. The ordinary American is daily intimidated with the claim that the tiny Republic of Nicaragua, which has chosen to pursue a peaceful path of freedom and independence, poses a threat to the biggest Western power; that Salvadoran patriots, who are defending their right to a better life with weapon in hand, have a direct bearing on the North American giant's "national security"; and that the situation in the region as a whole is like a chain reaction which at any moment might lead to a devastating political explosion on the United States "fifth border," as Central America is customarily called here with seigniorial arrogance.

It would be futile to look for so much as a hint of sociohistorical analysis in these hysterical ravings. But then that is understandable, since that would inevitably mean touching on the reasons for the revolutionary process currently underway on the continent. It would mean talking about the fact that south of the Rio Grande the sinister potentialities of the empires have increased by the decade and that, penetrating every sphere of life, their tentacles have paralyzed and disfigured the economic and spiritual development of the states subjugated to North American monopolies. It was also fair to recall that for every dollar of the more than \$30 billion invested more than \$4 profit goes into U.S. safes -- far more than in the United States. This vast capital, gained from the merciless exploitation of cheap labor, is turned into the oil, copper, tin, tungsten, and other precious raw materials which sustain the U.S. military-industrial machine.

If those who today are so viciously attacking Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada and progressive forces advocating independent and sovereign development were to peer behind the veil which shrouds historical truth, their readers and listeners would see an endless series of shameful U.S. imperialist acts: Marines alerted and gunboats put to sea under the U.S. flag in order to assert, by military force and violating sovereignty, the power of its monopolies; how more than half of Mexico's territory was seized from it to form what is now Texas; and how U.S. bayonets helped topple progressive governments in Guatemala (1954) and the Dominican Republic (1965). They would see the blood of young patriots murdered by the Pentagon military in the Panama Canal Zone and hear the sound of mass executions in a stadium in Santiago, where, with the CIA's support, its "own man" -- the butcher Pinochet -- mounted the dictator's throne.

For some reason you never heard the United States sermonizing about "democracy" and "human rights" when those obsequious Washington puppets Batista, Trujillo and Somoza, under whose terrorist reign the heartless ("Mamita Unay") -- the United Fruit Company -- and other subsidiaries of U.S.-owned corporations prospered, headed brutal dictatorships in Central America.

Tyrants steeped in the people's blood were received with open arms in the carpeted rooms of the White House. They had loyally served King Dollar and thus "freedom" -- in the imperialist sense of the word.

So Washington figures and their yes-men in the "big press" would clearly be crazy to examine the root of the problem and identify the driving forces of social reality. The king might suddenly be seen to be naked. Much better to look for a scapegoat in the realm of spurious propaganda constructs. The numerous myths consecrated by Washington's ruling elite -- the "threat of world communism," Soviet-Cuban interference," the "domino theory," and other fabrications designed to camouflage the crude U.S. interventionist policy in Latin America -- were thus born.

But all the signs indicate that Washington's stock of political lies is beginning to run out. Even Americans far removed from big politics, who are increasingly active in their opposition to Washington's adventures in the Central American region, no longer believe the anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban squawking. "The results of national public opinion polls show that U.S. interference in Central America has practically no public support...", THE NEW YORK TIMES admits. Responding to this mood, many congressmen are also becoming less accommodating, remembering the ignominious failure of U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

President Reagan has therefore been obliged to sound the alarm as loud as he possibly could. When he called for the convening of both houses of Congress, it was as though he was declaring the situation to be an "emergency." The head of the White House did his utmost to instill fear into the assembled lawmakers and, with the help of television, the entire nation. "A threat to national security," "a crisis," "a threat to U.S. prestige".... The audience was assailed by a whole cascade of intimidatory tirades.

Reagan's main tactical objective was to screw further appropriations out of Congress for military aid for El Salvador's rulers. What this is all about is not just the actual sum, which runs into tens of millions of dollars (the Pentagon will always find "other channels" of one sort or another for this purpose), but also whipping up a bellicose campaign against Cuba, Nicaragua, and other countries which are willing to submit to U.S. diktat.

The Washington administration aims to counter the growing national liberation movement in Latin America with the mailed fist of imperialism. Anything goes for this purpose. The White House has long since ceased toying with the idea of "representative democracy," which was fashionable in the days of the stillborn "Alliance for Progress." The time has come to implement the "Monroe neo-Doctrine": If it is not possible, as in the old days, to send in an armada of dreadnoughts, then let their place be taken instead by Pentagon advisers actively involved in the Salvadoran military's affairs; and if the Marines can no longer immediately be put into the field, maximum use must be made of the remnants of the dictator Somoza's "guards" -- arming them and, under CIA supervision, drilling them in how to stage an invasion of Nicaragua. Incidentally, the dreadnoughts and Marines are also looming not far away.

The current U.S. leaders are tormented by nostalgia for the days when Washington's envoys acted as political viceroys in its Latin American "backyard." It has reached the point where Reagan has appointed a special presidential envoy in Central America, R. Stone, who is to "assist" the local authorities (read: reactionary dictators) to decide their countries' political course. And quite unprecedented from the viewpoint of elementary respect for other states' sovereignty is the visit to Honduras by U.S. congressmen: They arrived in another country like political prosecutors -- to study in situ, as they say, the mechanism of CIA activity to provide combat training the Somozist thugs who are smuggled into Nicaragua and to decide whether or not they have "overstepped the mark."

At first some U.S. journalists tried to dub Washington's Latin American policy the "Reagan doctrine." But the name didn't stick. They have been unable to find anything new in his imperialist policy south of the Rio Grande. It is hardly surprising, since Washington's eyes are fixed on the past -- the days of the "big stick" and "gunboat diplomacy," "cold war" period which the White House incumbent recalled with such nostalgia in his congressional address.

But there is no turning the clock back. The Latin American peoples' national liberation struggle is gathering momentum. Although they mean further tragedies for its population, Washington's latest adventures in the region are ultimately doomed to failure.

SANDINIST FRONT COORDINATOR ARCE CITED

PM041353 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 May 83 First Edition p 3

[TASS report under general heading: "Intervention Continues"]

[Text] Managua, 3 May -- The Reagan administration is following the path of escalating armed aggression against Nicaragua and is trying to involve the United States in an extensive military adventure in Central America similar to the U.S. intervention in Vietnam. This was stated by Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the political commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate.

Exploiting the "communist threat" myth, he said, the Reagan administration is trying to bring back the Cold War days and start a new chapter in the history of U.S. military interference in the affairs of developing states. The use of crude military force and economic pressure, arrogance, obstinacy, overt crimes -- these are the characteristic features of the policy which President Reagan wants the U.S. Congress and the entire U.S. people to aid and abet.

Reagan's recent Congress speech, B. Arce noted, shows that the White House intends to continue to escalate armed aggression against Nicaragua. In the last 4 months foreign aircraft have violated the republic's airspace on more than 80 occasions; U.S. spyplanes make regular flights over Nicaragua. The targets for the aerial espionage are those parts of Nicaragua where counterrevolutionary formations are carrying out their armed sorties.

U.S. warships, two of which are currently in the Gulf of Fonseca near the Nicaraguan coast, are participating in espionage actions against Nicaragua.

On behalf of the FSLN National Directorate and the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, B. Arce put forward a program for a peaceful settlement of the Central American crisis.

Faced with the Reagan administration's aggressive intrigues and threats, we will continue to exercise our sovereign right to ask any country, regardless of its political and social system, for military aid in order to defend the motherland, B. Arce said. Nicaragua, he stressed, is prepared to sign nonaggression agreements with any interested states and to start talks with them.

The Nicaraguan leadership, the Political Commission coordinator pointed out, resolutely rejects Washington's fabrications to the effect that Soviet missiles are deployed on Nicaraguan territory. These fabrications, he stressed, are a figment of the Reagan administration's diseased imagination.

B. Arce confirmed the Nicaraguan people's determination to struggle against the armed aggression of counterrevolutionary groupings and their readiness to defend the gains of the Sandinist revolution.

LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED IN EL SALVADOR

LD302116 Moscow TASS in English 1729 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose April 30 TASS -- The Salvadorean patriots have started a new large-scale offensive in various parts of the country. The fighting men of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front have launched a number of powerful attacks against the troops of the regime in the union, Morazan and San Miguel Departments.

According to reports reaching here, as a result of many hours of fighting, the guerrillas captured the town of Santa Rosa de Lima with a population of 30 thousand, situated at a distance of nearly 180 kilometres from the Salvadorean capital. Forty soldiers of the repressive regime have been killed and ten taken prisoner. Large quantities of arms and equipment have been captured.

In Cinquera, at a distance of 75 kilometres north of San Salvador, the patriots routed the crack battalion of punitive troops "Sierpe."

The guerrillas also blew up a big bridge in the border village of Amatillo linking El Salvador with Honduras. Army units of the Honduran regime made an attempt to cross the river to help out the Salvadorean soldiers, but were thrown back by the patriots.

In various areas of the country, including on the pan-American highway, the country's biggest, guerrillas blew up six bridges. They also derailed a freight train at a distance of 25 kilometres from the capital and destroyed a large number of trucks and passenger cars.

In the area of Guazapa and Chinchontepec volcanoes, which have been turned by the patriots into unassailable fortresses, the fighting men of the national liberation front are successfully repelling the attacks of 3,000 punitive troops.

ARGENTINA STRUGGLES FOR FALKLAND DECOLONIZATION

PY022043 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 23 GMT 1 May 1983

[Commentary by Nikolay Morey]

[Text] For almost a century and a half the Argentine people have been struggling for the decolonization of the Malvinas Islands. That struggle has been mainly carried on through diplomatic means. The UN had approved the appropriate resolutions, but London boycotted compliance with every one of them. The British-Argentine struggle came to a head last year with a military confrontation, which pitted Argentina against Great Britain and the United States. Washington has long been looking for a way to get its hands on the South Atlantic wealth. In recent years the White House has stepped up its efforts to get Argentina to participate in its expansionist plans. The intention is to use Argentina, taking into account its economic potential and its political weight, to stifle liberation movements which are in the eyes of the United States undesirable in that region.

Liberation must be understood in its broadest sense, encompassing the struggle against colonialism and social and political domination, the struggle for sovereignty and democracy, as well as the effort of some countries to put an end to economic dependency on the United States, and their aspiration to become independent in international affairs. Washington would like to turn Argentina into an instrument of U.S. political, economic and ideological influence over other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

The Malvinas conflict taught a good lesson to Argentina and other countries in the region, an important lesson on the specifics of the contemporary world situation. It has taught them that whenever imperialist interests must be defended, the great powers are determined to use force, even against countries which from the class struggle viewpoint are considered allies. The U.S.- and NATO-supported British actions demonstrated that the threat to peace came not from a fancied Cuban-Soviet expansion, but from the aggressive policy of imperialist nations.

By intervening against Argentina, Washington squared off against all the Latin American countries. The White House violated the Reciproval Assistance Treaty which had been engineered by the United States, thus jeopardizing the entire system of relations in the Americas. The notion of exclusive allegiance to the West, which is advocated by the United States, is now in doubt. Political circles on the continent cannot but think of replacing that old view of Latin American foreign policy by a broader view of international relations.

Not by happenstance, in Argentina and other South American countries the need for strengthening mutual relations, discarding the idea of Panamericanism, participating more actively in the Nonaligned Movement, intensifying relations with countries in the world regardless of ideology or sociopolitical regime, is being discussed. Washington is making moves to reverse the changes in Latin America's foreign policy to their old form: In the UN it voted for the resolution in Argentina's favor; the White House is asking the Senate to lift restrictions on arms sale and military technology transfer to Argentina; U.S. messengers are back in Buenos Aires- and U.S. banks are demonstrating willingness to provide economically-troubled Argentina with credits and loans.

After this first-hand experience with the real attitude of the Western powers against developing countries, Argentina and Latin America as a whole cannot but reach the conclusion that independence in their foreign policy serves their own national interests by making them less vulnerable to imperialism.

GRISHIN CHAIRS PRE-MAY DAY MEETING 12 APRIL

WA291400 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA IN Russian 13 Apr 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Capital Prepares for May Day"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the CPSU Gorkom commission for the preparation and carrying out of the 1983 May Day celebration in Moscow took place yesterday. It was chaired by V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

CPSU Raykom First Secretaries N.G. Komarov and Ye.A. Asoskov gave reports on preparations for the 1983 May Day celebration in Dzerzhinskiy and Sevastopolskiy Rayons.

B.V. Pokarzhevskiy, Mosgorispolkom secretary, gave a report on cultural services for Moscovites during precelebration and celebration days.

H.P. Tregubov chief of the Main Trade Administration, and N.F. Zavyalov, chief of the Main Administration for Public Catering, delivered reports on work preparations of the trade and public catering enterprises of Moscow during precelebration and celebration days. V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, addressed

V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, addressed the commission meeting.

The meeting stressed the necessity of utilizing the preparations for the May Day celebration for arousing competition to the utmost so as to fulfill and overfulfill planned tasks for 1983, for the lofty obligations undertaken by working collectives in honor of the 113th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth, and for the International Day for Workers' Solidarity. We should intensify the struggle to strengthen labor and production discipline and to activate the Moscovite movement under the motto "Honor and glory through labor." It is necessary to ensure appropriate public order in the city.

Particular attention was given at the meeting to the precise organization of the work of trade enterprises and public catering and to an improvement in cultural services of the population. It was noted that much still remains to be done in this regard, particularly in the new microrayons.

KUNAYEV ON TASKS OF KAZAKH TRADE UNIONS

PM290935 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 83 p 1

[KAZTAG report: "Talk at Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee With Trade Union Workers"]

[Text] On 22 April a talk took place between Comrade D.A. Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, and leaders of the Kazakh Trade Unions Council and the republic trade union committees and oblast trade union councils.

In his speech Comrade D.A. Kunayev stressed the great importance of the work the republic's trade unions are performing in implementing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the 15th Kazakh Communist Party Congress. He dwelt on the tasks of the trade union councils and committees in the light of the instructions voiced by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech at the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) plenum and his speech at the CPSU Central Committee conference on some practical questions of the development of agriculture and the implementation of the USSR Food Program.

Special attention was paid to the need to further step up work on the development of socialist competition and on the working people's mobilization for the successful fulfillment of the plans and pledges of the third year and the 5-year plan as a whole; the need for the trade unions' more active participation in the struggle to accelerate the intensification of industry and agriculture and to boost the production and quality of the output of industry, arable farming, stockraising, and other sectors of the national economy; and for the observance of the policy of economy and thrift.

Much has to be done in connection with the discussion of the USSR draft law on labor collectives and the enhancement of their role in the management of enterprises, institutions, and organizations; with the broad introduction of the team contract; with the coordination of the activity of all links of the agroindustrial associations; and with the maximum use of reserves and potential in the economic, social, and cultural and consumer spheres.

Greater concern must be displayed for developing the labor and sociopolitical activeness of workers, kolkhoz members, and specialists; for further boosting rationalization and invention; for improving working conditions and safety at every workplace; for cultural and consumer, medical, and trade services for the population; for the correct allocation of housing and economic incentive funds; for improving the standard of work of sanatoriums and rest homes; and for the organization of amateur arts activities.

Comrade D. A. Kunayev pointed to the importance of enhancing each person's responsibility for the job in hand, consolidating labor and state discipline, order and organization, improving the working people's ideological and moral education and economic training, and the vocational guidance and retention of young people in production. The party organizations must effect daily and specific leadership of the trade union committees and councils, support their valuable initiative in every way, and render them more aid. The mass information and propaganda media also can and must do much in this direction.

K. T. Turysov, chairman of the Kazakh Trade Unions Council, thanked the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee for its constant concern for and attention to the trade unions and assured it that they would resolve even more persistently the tasks set them by Lenin's party.

Taking part in the meeting were S.N. Imashev, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; O.S. Miroshkhin, second secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee; N.A. Nazarbayev, secretary of the Kazakh Central Committee; and A.A. Mukhambetov, chief of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department.

RECENT LEADER APPEARANCES, ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Kuznetsov Presents Award

LD042357 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Today Comrade Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, handed the Order of Lenin in the Kremlin to Comrade Abrasimov, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the GDR. He has been honored with this award for services in diplomatic work and in connection with his 70th birthday.

Rashidov Tashkent Functions

PM281500 [Editorial Report] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 23 April front-pages a 500-word UZTAG report under the heading "Ceremonial Meeting in Tashkent" on a 22 April public meeting in Tashkent to mark the 113th anniversary of Lenin's birth. The report states:

"An honorary presidium comprising the Politburo of the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee was elected with great enthusiasm."

The report concludes:

"Taking part in the ceremonial meeting were S.R. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbek CP Central Committee; Uzbek CP Central Committee Bureau members and candidate members Y.A. Aytmuratov, I.G. Khodzhaev, N.D. Khudayberdiyev, N.M. Makhmudova, and L.N. Melkumov."

The same paper also front-pages a 300-word UZTAG report under the heading "To One Eternally Alive" on a wreath-laying ceremony held on 22 April on Tashkent's Lenin Square. The reports states:

"Taking part in the flower-laying ceremony were S.R. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbek CP Central Committee, and members and candidate members of the Uzbek CP Central Committee."

Romanov Presents Labor Awards

LD282018 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Excerpt] On the eve of May Day, Leningraders who have distinguished themselves at work are traditionally honored at Smolny. Today, awards were presented by Comrade Romanov.

Shevardnadze at Tbilisi Meeting

PM281405 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 23 Apr 83 p 1

[GRUZINFORM report: "Along the Road Indicated by Lenin"]

[Excerpts] "Under the Banner of Lenin, Under the Leadership of the Communist Party -- Forward, Toward the Victory of Communism!"

This party slogan rang out in the Tbilisi Z. Paliashvili State Academy Opera and Ballet Theater on 22 April. A festive session of representatives of the Georgian capital's party, soviet and public organizations and of military units of the Tbilisi garrison was held there to mark the 113th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth.

In the presidium of the festive session were comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, G.A. Andronikashvili, P.G. Gilashvili, G.N. Yenukidze, A.N. Inauri, D.I. Kartvelishvili, G.V. Kolbin, D.I. Ptashvili, T.V. Rostishvili, S.Y. Khabeishvili, O.Y. Cherkeziya, N.A. Chitanava, Z.A. Chkheidze, T.I. Mosashvili; party veterans; leading party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol personnel; production frontrankers; figures from science and culture and military leaders.

Participants in the festive session unanimously and with great enthusiasm elected an honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Shevardnadze at Complex Startup

PM030915 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 83 Morning Edition p 2

[Unnamed TASS correspondent report: "Clean-Air Factory"]

[Excerpts] Zestafoni, Georgia, 28 Apr -- A big new gas-purification complex was commissioned today at the Zestafoni Ferroalloy Plant. This "clean-air factory," in whose construction Georgian workers were aided by specialists from Russian, the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia, eliminates the last remaining source of atmospheric pollution at the major Georgian industrial center. The rally celebrating the startup of the complex was attended by E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

Supreme Soviet Honors Stukhalin

LD030903 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0840 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Moscow, 3 May (TASS) -- Boris Stukalin, head of the Propaganda Department of the CPSU Central Committee has been awarded the Order of Lenin for services to the Communist Party and the Soviet state and in connection with his 60th birthday. This is stated in a decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium which has been published here.

OFFICIALS RELIEVED OF POSTS; REPLACEMENTS MADE

Moldavian Raykom Secretary

WA051400 Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 13 Apr 83 p 3

[ATEM Report: "Plenum of the Kutuzov Rayon Party Committee"]

[Text] On April 12 a plenum of the Kutuzov rayon party committee took place which considered the organizational question. The plenum freed S.G. Buze from his responsibilities as first secretary and member of the Bureau of the rayon party committee in connection with his transfer to other work. M.S. Zhikul was elected first secretary and member of the Bureau of the Kutuzov Rayon party committee. G.G. Dygay, candidate member of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia and head of the CC KPM Department of Organizational-Party Work.

Georgian SSR Personnel Changes

PM291341 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 24 Apr 83 p 2

[Unattributed "Announcement"]

[Text] The Georgian SSR Council of Ministers has appointed Comrade N.B. Meparishvili deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR State Committee for Agricultural Production. The Georgian SSR Council of Ministers has relieved Comrade N.A. Godabrelidze of his post as Georgian SSR deputy minister of agriculture.

LE MONDE DISCUSSES SOVIET LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS

19 April Article

PM251527 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Apr 83 pp 1, 7

[Part 1 of Michel Tatu dispatch: "Mr Andropov's Difficulties"]

[Text] Moscow [no date given] -- It all started with a harmless discovery on the stands outside Moscow's bookshops. For some years it has been the custom of Politburo members to publish collections of their "works," in fact consisting of articles and speeches written for them by their staff. Several of these collections are on sale this April, together with numerous books by Brezhnev, from his many speeches to the final chapters of his memoirs. But Mr Andropov's writings are almost impossible to find -- at most a thin booklet containing his 21 December 1982 speech and the promise (at least a month late) of the imminent appearance of a separate edition of his KOMMUNIST article devoted to Marx. But there is not a trace of any more substantial collection or book: "There are none left," one is told, or: "We are awaiting a new edition."

Party second-in-command Mr Chernenko fares much better: No less than three collections and works carrying his name are on sale and PRAVDA on 5 April announced a fourth, entitled "Establishing the Leninist Style in the Party's Work."

Since there is no run on this kind of literature and state political publishing houses have never withheld the means for propagating the theories of the masters of the moment, the "exhaustion" of stocks of the works in question is rather difficult to explain. It is true that Mr Andropov is reluctant to organize worship of himself and has made this known. Having seen on television a rally conducted under the portraits of Brezhnev and himself, he apparently ordered an end to the "parade of icons."

Perhaps this same modesty is also responsible for the recent practice of having all official messages signed by the Central Committee and other anonymous bodies rather than by himself personally. Hence the impression of increased grayness now given by political life. The grayness is barely dispelled by the publication of a communique on the Politburo's weekly sessions (an innovation of the new reign), which only confirms that it is indeed the Politburo that decides everything, from the essential to the secondary -- almost as if one had to be satisfied with the Wednesday Council of Ministers' communique to judge political life in Paris.

All the same, Mr Andropov does not shrink from "personalized" appearances, as shown by his almost unaccompanied visit to Moscow's Ordzhonikidze Metal Works or the roundups of telegrams addressed "Dear Yuriy" from Americans worried about peace which PRAVDA has already published twice in the purest Khrushchevian style. Furthermore, there is no reason for some to be more prominent than others, even in the publishing field, or for the first [as published] secretary's slightest physical weakness to be promptly echoed in the diplomatic corps by Soviet disclosures. Mr Andropov is certainly in poor health, but there is slightly too much eagerness in certain quarters to make it known.

So one must perceive in all this indirect signs of the unease, or rather the kind of stalemate reached in political life since about December 1982, a few weeks after the appointment -- judged slightly too prematurely triumphant by the West -- of Mr Andropov as Communist Party first secretary.

Mr Zagladin, first deputy chief of the Central Committee International Relations section, who receives us in his huge Old Square office sitting beneath a photograph of the Lille bar where the Internationale was composed (a gift from Comrade Mauroy, he explained), decided to go beyond Brezhnev's death to explain what has happened within the party leadership during the past year. In his opinion, it was not one head but three that disappeared in 1982 -- Brezhnev, of course, but also Suslov and Kirilenko (who left first for health reasons in November), all three of whom sat on both the Politburo and the Secretariat. Their replacements are, respectively, Messrs Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachev who, he said, still fulfill the same functions -- the first, general leadership; the second, ideology; and the third, the economy. This is itself an innovation, since Mr Gorbachev's political activities were hitherto limited to agriculture, while the leadership of industry seems to be shared by Messrs Dolgikh and Ryzhkov, two party secretaries of whom the latter, elected in November, was put in charge of the Central Committee's newly created "economic service" (it is true that neither is a full Politburo member, as Mr Gorbachev was).

But Mr Chernenko's portrayal as "the new Suslov" is not unanimous, even among people working within the orbit of the Central Committee. According to some, the man Brezhnev appointed as his successor has inherited only the leadership of propaganda, ideology and culture, which enables him, for instance to control publishing and, as we have seen, to take care of the distribution of his own "thoughts." According to others, he is also in charge of party "diplomacy," as was Suslov, and also controls the Organization Department, as he did before 1982. According to both groups, however, it is very difficult to see him as an "ideologue," still less as the "kingmaker," the virtually unchallenged arbiter that Suslov had become. Is it not said that he began his career as Brezhnev's chauffeur in the thirties and continued until the last moment as the first secretary's factotum, the man who carried his documents and opened his bottles of mineral water?

The "Chernenko Case"

However, Soviet political life is bound to center on the "Chernenko case" in the coming months, because it is on him that Mr Andropov's authority and perhaps even his future depend.

According to the most reliable sources, the latter was appointed general secretary by the Politburo on 10 November by only a very small majority. The two major authors of that decision were Defense Minister Marshal Ustinov -- who opposed Chernenko's candidacy, proposed by Mr Tikhonov, prime minister and trusted Brezhnev supporter -- and Mr Gromyko, who supported his colleague at the Defense Ministry. But this does not mean that the same majority, small in the first place, still supports all the general secretary's plans. On the contrary, the "Chernenko clan," toward which all the restless Brezhnevites and a large proportion of the traditional party apparatus converge, has regrouped its forces to such an extent that Mr Andropov, according to the best analysis, no longer has "his own" majority within the Politburo.

The consequent stalemate within the leadership is manifested in various ways:

1. Mr Chernenko, as we have seen, controls a sufficient number of levers to exert a substantial "harmful effect," but is himself obstructed by Mr Andropov, who strictly limits his activities. Thus the conference of secretaries of fraternal parties in charge of ideology and foreign relations in March, apparently under Mr Chernenko's aegis, did not particularly highlight the latter -- though he did receive the delegation leaders -- because it was not he, but Mr Ponomarev, who headed the Soviet delegation.

Again it was Mr Ponomarev who read out the report on Marx's anniversary in early April (the self-styled new "chief ideologue" could then have claimed such a role). And it was Mr Zimyanin, "junior" secretary in charge of ideology, who presented a report on the same topic at a recent conference in Berlin. All in all, the party second-in-command is entitled to receive this or that ambassador, sometimes welcomes a foreign delegation at the airport (such as Mozambique President Samora Machel, whom he greeted, however, after Mr Gromyko), but he attends no negotiations and remains the leader least in view.

Few Changes in Provinces

2. Personnel changes, which promised to be numerous at the start of the new reign, have remained limited, at least geographically. Several ministers have been replaced, with reproaches for some (such as Railways Minister Pavlovskiy), and others without explanation. But apart from some largely ignored exceptions (as with the replacement, announced 9 April, of the minister of "general machine building," the man who in fact deals with the military missiles program), these have been basically technical changes. There have also been several changes at the head of the propaganda apparatus (the head of the section of the same name, the heads of IZVESTIYA, APN and the Communist Youth), though it has not been possible to establish Mr Chernenko's part in them.

But there have been many fewer changes in the provinces, particularly within the obkom leaderships, the regional party committees that exert the basic power at the grassroots level. Moreover, since the few first secretaries replaced have, in the vast majority of cases, been replaced by persons recruited on the spot (the deputy secretary or chairman of the regional soviet) and not by "special envoys" from Moscow, the impression is that these mechanisms are more than ever the "fiefs," not to say strongholds that they had become under Brezhnev. Now not only do they escape the control of Mr Andropov, who has been unable to establish his own power base within the party, but they seem to have found in Mr Chernenko their natural "godfather," the man who best reassures them about the maintenance of Brezhnevian continuity.

This hold on the heart of the apparatus by the Brezhnevites is demonstrated by the survival, albeit partial, of the most prominent members of the "clan": Thus the son of the former general secretary, Yuriy Brezhnev, is still first deputy minister of foreign trade, we were informed by his subordinates; his son-in-law, Mr Churbanov, formerly first deputy minister of the interior, is apparently now head of the KGB in Murmansk. The same does not apply to the latter's former boss, Interior Minister Shchelokov, who has found no new post since his dismissal in December and whose wife committed suicide at the end of March because of the investigations into cases of corruption implicating his associates.

3. The evident paralysis within the party Secretariat due to the rivalry between Andropov and Chernenko perhaps explains the recovery of favor that the government apparatus seems to be enjoying. Rather like in 1953, following Stalin's death, it is there, and not in the Secretariat, that one finds the regime's "bigwigs," particularly four Politburo members -- Mr Tikhonov, prime minister; and Messrs Ustinov, Gromyko and Aliyev, the two latter being first deputy prime ministers.

But a reshuffle has taken place in this group in recent months. Mr Alyev, former head of the KGB and then of the party in Azerbaijan, was, in November, "the man on the way up"; now he is rather losing momentum. Diplomats to whom Mr Aliyev had been previously presented as assuming universal responsibilities are now being told that he deals mainly with...the railroads.

It is also said that when Mr Andropov decided that all Politburo members would return to the state all official gifts received in the various regions and that when a list was drawn up, the republic at the head of the list of donators was Azerbaijan, whose leader was then Mr Aliyev.... This was a point against someone who claimed to be the champion of the anticorruption struggle. Moreover, Mr Aliyev's "Andropovian" allegiance is open to question: It is said that in May 1982 he was Brezhnev's candidate for the leadership of the KGB against Mr Fedorchuk, backed by Mr Andropov and eventually appointed.

On the other hand, the man now on the way up is Mr Gromyko, as is shown successively by his promotion to first deputy prime minister (whereas his colleague at the Defense Ministry, Mr Ustinov, has enjoyed no additional rank) and the intense media publicity for his 2 April press conference.

According to the interpretation of one reliable source, it is not he, but Mr Dolgikh, party secretary and specialist in industrial matters, that Mr Andropov would like to promote within the government hierarchy. The "Chernenko clan" preferred to support Mr Gromyko so as to please an "independent" -- someone who, though having supported Mr Andropov's candidacy for the party leadership, owes the latter nothing and is the person best able to limit his authority in a key area -- foreign policy. Hence the veiled criticisms addressed by some party officials to the foreign minister, who is sometimes judged too rigid. Since two other leading members of the government -- Mr Tikhonov and Mr Arkhipov, another deputy prime minister, responsible for foreign trade -- are well-known members of the "Brezhnev-Chernenko clan," it must certainly be admitted that the movement of power toward the state is accompanied by no advantages for Mr Andropov, still in search of his "own" majority.

The stalemate is such that, according to the best analysts, it must come to a head one way or another. Will the next Central Committee plenum, unofficially scheduled for 14 June, be the occasion for a beneficial clarification? The session will be devoted to ideology, and according to Mr Zagladin the introductory report will be delivered by Mr Chernenko himself -- who will thus have an opportunity to make his first major public speech since his November defeat. But it is also known that another team is already working to prepare Mr Andropov's "closing speech," that is, a kind of counterweight. It is also known that a Supreme Soviet session will also be convened immediately after and that it will elect a chairman of its Presidium, in other words, a head of state who, contrary to all expectations, was not appointed in December. Mr Andropov apparently made this assurance himself in answer to an unpublished question from a worker during his visit to the Ordzhonikidze factory at the end of January.

So one can expect changes, though it is still impossible to assess their importance. Perhaps there will only be a limited reshuffle, with Mr Andropov's cautious maneuvering preventing him from breaking down barriers. This is why there is no question at this stage of a thorough reform of the system.

20 April Article

PM261348 Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Apr 83 p 7

[Part 2 of Michel Tatu dispatch: "Mr Andropov's Difficulties"]

[Text] Moscow [no date given] -- "A reform? There is no reform." Party Central Committee member Zagladin was categorical, and other interlocutors confirmed to us that the very word "reform" is, so to speak, taboo.

Moreover, Mr Andropov took care not to use it in his KOMMUNIST article, confining himself to speaking of "measures to be devised in order to provide a broader field of action for the immense creative forces at our economy's disposal," and immediately covering himself by pointing out that it will be necessary in so doing "to proceed from the laws of the development of the economic system of socialism."

It is therefore only a matter of "perfecting" and "making improvements" -- which recalls countless previously launched slogans and campaigns and limits in advance the scope of the "measures" announced by Mr Andropov. For some people, such as Mr Zagladin, the current leaders' intention is to implement previous decisions better -- specifically, a semireform approved in July 1979 which extended the rights and duties of production units (the "ob'yedineniye," or association of enterprises) and decentralized powers somewhat in favor of the republics. For others, this is a stage in the encouragement and extension of the "experiments": those of the production teams -- a section of the "collectives" within enterprises and kolkhozes to which more complex tasks are entrusted; the "podryad" experiment, which confirms at the accounting level the relative autonomy granted to the teams; the so-called "Shchekino" experiment which allows enterprises to dismiss personnel while maintaining the same wage fund and therefore to increase the earnings of those who remain and ensure the same level of output; and last, the experiment of the "rayon agroindustrial association" (RAPO), which is aimed at better integrating economic activities in the countryside and ensuring implementation of the "Food Program" approved in May 1982 under Brezhnev.

But none of these experiments is new, and one would seek in vain in recent documents for the beginning of a "conceptual" change. Thus the draft law on enterprise "collectives" rights published 12 April merely codifies very long-standing practices. It is still a matter of placing organized enthusiasm (and its traditional coordinators, which are the trade unions, the party, the Komsomol, the "control groups" and so forth) at the service of the command economy and of combining "local initiatives" -- which are in fact closely controlled -- with the "strengthening of centralized planning." The above-mentioned 1979 decisions suffered precisely from this contradiction. There was scarcely any question at that time of promoting the economic criteria of management such as profitability and commercial value -- an embryonic idea in the abortive reform of 1965 -- and there is no more question of it today.

The experiments conducted by the "fraternal countries" will certainly be studied -- a committee has been set up to this end under the chairmanship of the irremovable Gosplan Chairman Mr Baybakov -- but the article by Academician Bogomolov in PRAVDA of 14 March which announced this decision took care not to show preference for any of these experiments. Hungary is cited in this respect on the same level as, and neither more nor less than, Bulgaria, the GDR or Czechoslovakia (the only exception is Poland, whose experiment, one surmises, is not deemed worthy of being studied).

End of Discipline Campaign

There remains the campaign for "work discipline," the crackdown on absentees, slackers and other malingerers, the checks in stores and movie theaters -- all actions which were the talk of Moscow at the beginning of the year and set their stamp on the new reign. But two observations are required in this respect: the first is that this campaign has stopped, the most conspicuous checks having gradually ceased during March; and the second that everyone who has been met, including those who should have been deeply involved in the operation, act as if nothing had happened and assert that they took no part in it. And there is no lack of semiofficial commentators to hint that these "exercises" should be forgotten as soon as possible.

Two visits -- one to a secretary of the Central Council of Trade Unions and the other to the People's Control Committee (a body whose headquarters is in the immediate vicinity of the party Central Committee headquarters, and whose standing appears higher than is generally accepted by observers) -- illustrate this impression. Our two interlocutors had "heard" of some checks; they burst out laughing when we spoke to them about the police raids at the Sandunov baths, where minor officials were questioned when they should have been at their offices: "Ah yes. We heard that, too." But these were only "rumors." They themselves had been aware of no directive to that effect, their organizations had taken part in nothing of the kind, and, moreover, there is no "campaign" (the word is as taboo as the word "reform" in connection with the economy) -- only a quite normal and more sustained application of the old principles of socialist work discipline, "collective" life and so forth. And they almost apologized for the fuss made by the press about what is, after all, only the continuation of previous activities.

More About Corruption?

In other words, the only aspect of government action which can be attributed without any possible doubt to Mr Andropov is being seriously played down. Does the same apply to the second -- that of the struggle against corruption, which this time has the peculiarity of being aimed at the elite and no longer solely the "ordinary" population -- as the first? If the exposure of corruption has not had very spectacular effects so far, a trend toward greater activism is not ruled out in this respect. We have seen the net close around the former leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which led to Mrs Shchelokov's suicide. A gold trafficking affair involving senior officials of the Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy (Minister Lomako was recently pensioned off) will apparently give rise to two trials during May, one in Ufa, in the Urals, and the other in Novosibirsk.

It is there that the "nomenklatura" (and many foreign observers) expect to see Mr Andropov at work, since he and his KGB men have earned a reputation for incorruptibility, and he has thick files in his possession. But the damage is limited in advance, because anything which might implicate Politburo members is subject to the agreement...of the Politburo, hence of the same people (it was for breaking that rule by implicating Brezhnev's family that Semen Tsvigun, Mr Andropov's first deputy in the KGB, was driven to suicide in January 1982). In the meantime, the natural propensity of the former policeman-become-party general secretary is for regaining control by the good old methods of repression tempered by education. This is his "NEP," people say jokingly in Moscow today, with the nuance that the abbreviation does not mean "new economic policy," as under Lenin, but "restoration of elementary order...."

As conducted so far, the disciplinary drive is not disliked by the cadres of the regime though, as we have seen, they do tend to play it down. It is nevertheless preferable to attacks on corruption, which would reach too high up, or to an economic reform, which would disrupt the habits of the middle-level cadres. "There is no pressure for change" is the basic comment from officials who, comfortably established in the plethora of opulent public offices that proliferated under Brezhnev, tend to adopt a philosophical attitude to the difficulties of the ordinary people at the bottom of the ladder and in the provinces. And it is true that, though lines in the stores remain a daily phenomenon, even in Moscow, and even though meat rations in a city such as Tolyatti, for instance, are 3 pounds per adult per month (less than half the Polish ration at its lowest), these difficulties are often attenuated by practices inherent in the system which, at least for a fairly large number of people, reduce their acuteness: several factories receive their supplies directly from a nearby "leased" kolkhoz, while in the major cities workers can purchase a number of food products at their place of work through an agreement between their enterprises and a major store.

Unsatisfied Thirst

The fact remains that the thirst for change was intense in November in several strata of the population, after 18 years of Brezhnevian stagnation; and that this thirst has not been quenched. Some oppositionists and skeptics attribute the pursuit of stagnation to the schemes of the "Chernenko clan," while others wonder whether it was not rather too early to credit Mr Andropov with a will for reform of which there has so far been no factual evidence. Reformist intellectuals, or what remains of them, are particularly bitter: they point to the increased difficulties of contacts with foreigners (confirmed by diplomats), the restrictions imposed on international telephone calls and the stepping up of "ideological" controls, and conclude: "What can you expect from a policeman who knows only KGB methods and barracks communism?"

The less pessimistic point out some very small encouraging signs. In January Mrs Lidiya Chukovskaya, daughter of the great writer Korney Chukovskiy (and herself expelled from the Writers' Union for nonconformist activities), received authorization to affix a plaque outside the Peredelkino villa where her husband lived and where she continues "unofficially" to keep the memory of her father alive, though last September there was talk of her being evicted. On 31 March, following innumerable demarches, an identical plaque was attached to the house in Moscow where the writer was born. Roy Medvedev, the semidissident still resident in Moscow, was summoned in January to a sermon from the public prosecutor, but he himself attributes this occurrence to a "routine" initiative not approved from on high, and he still lives more or less in peace in Moscow. Having said that, it would take much more for one to be able to talk in terms of an improvement in the climate, let alone a thaw such as the one welcomed by Erenburg in 1953, before the official de-Stalinization. All that is left is for foreign policy to lighten -- if the word can be used -- this gloom and to enliven the political debate somewhat, however little.

21 April Article

PM261436 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Apr 83 p 5

[Part 3 of Michel Tatu article: "Mr Andropov's Difficulties: III -- Missile Battle"]

[Text] Moscow -- It is not even the "wing of the cold war" but that of the "middle ages" which is blowing in the White House where several of R. Reagan's advisers "are regarded as in need of medical help." The situation is equally worrying in West Germany where "the revanchist spirit" (an expression forgotten for the past 10 years) is gaining ground and where there are reckoned to be "between 75 and 120 neofascist organizations." These quotations, taken from Mr Arbatov, director of the Soviet United States of America and Canada Institute, and from recent PRAVDA articles, give an idea of the polemics being waged on all sides in the USSR: against Washington, whose policy is not far from being deemed irremediable; against Bonn after the disappointment of the SPD's defeat in the general elections; and more recently against Paris after the expulsion of the Soviet representatives.

The NATO missiles problem, which crowns everything, is mobilizing commentators and bringing this climate to its peak. In view of the deadline set by NATO, the means which Soviet propaganda is devoting to this affair and the prestige staked on it by the present leadership, the missile battle is certainly the affair of the year in Moscow, possibly even more than in the West.

Let us sum up the main Soviet arguments on this subject -- at least those which go a little further than customary propaganda. By wishing to deploy in Western Europe missiles which will reach Soviet territory, the United States, it is said in Moscow, wishes not only to break the "approximate balance" which allegedly reigns in Europe, but also to add new "strategic" weapons to the arsenal accounted for in the SALT agreements and to provide itself with a means of "decapitating" the Red Army's forces in Europe, without the corresponding Soviet armaments (the SS-20 missiles and other medium-range forces) being able to inflict the same damage on U.S. territory. The fact that it is the United States and not the Europeans which will control the new Euromissiles is regarded as an aggravating circumstance: "We know that Europe will not launch a first strike against us," an expert told us. "With the Americans it is more than just a possibility; Reagan and his advisers hope to be able to settle their scores with the USSR one day while protecting their sanctuary and using the territory of the European states, which are thus being held hostage."

Of course, French and British armaments must enter into the equation: Contradicting an argument put forward by Mr Giscard d'Estaing and his friends, Moscow recalls that this is a "constant stance" by the USSR, completely independent from the attitude adopted by Mr Mitterrand on this subject.

Why the SS-20 Missiles?

The reasoning becomes a little vaguer when some questions are raised: How is it still possible to talk of an "approximate balance" in Europe, as was done back in 1979, when 200 SS-20 missiles, in other words 600 nuclear warheads, have been added to the Soviet arsenal since that date without anything to counterbalance them from the Western side? Why in general did the Soviet general staff launch into this specifically anti-European arms program in the seventies, when it had attained parity with the United States, when detente was in full swing in Europe and when, in addition, the arsenal already acquired (especially the submarine-borne missiles and a series of aircraft) was already amply big enough to pulverize the whole of Eurasia?

In reply to the first question General Milshteyn, member of the United States of America and Canada Institute, said that the old SS-4 and SS-5 missiles have been eliminated at a growing rate (first at the rate of one for one SS-20 and then of two for one) and that there has been a reduction in terms of throwweight (so dear to the Americans). But he was forced to admit that there has nonetheless been an increase in the number of operational warheads. In reply to the second question probably nobody goes so far as to say that the "modernization" of the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles was a mistake, that the USSR could have abandoned this type of weapon in the same way as the United States abandoned its first Thor and Jupiter class missiles from 1963. Nonetheless some people admit in private that, in launching their SS-20 program, the Soviet military had not foreseen all the consequences of their gesture.

Others take refuge in untruths. General Tatarnikov, adviser to the Soviet delegation in Geneva, claims that the Americans took the "preliminary" decision to deploy Pershing II missiles in Europe back in 1975 and that the SS-20 missiles only became operational in 1979 after the NATO decision (whereas all the possible Western estimates date their deployment from 1977). In any case, it is on this point that the otherwise fairly well-documented pamphlet published in Moscow this month (Footnote: "Now To Remove the Threat Hanging Over Europe") is the least convincing: It suggests that the Soviet "modernization" could have been avoided if the United States had agreed to negotiate its forward-based systems in Europe, but admits that the very real SS-20 opposed the "plans" for increased nuclear strength attributed to NATO.

Everything stems from the fact that arms programs pass in front of the Politburo "like letters in the mail" ("it is enough to say that it is necessary to the country's security and nobody dares to object," a Soviet remarked) and the Red Army chiefs' pronounced taste for verbosity does the rest. A Western diplomat pointed out that the very term "bezopasnost," used in Russian for "security," goes much further than its Western equivalent: It means "absence of danger" and implies that any threat which looms on the horizon will be combatted indefinitely and not just "balanced." Similarly, without saying so expressly, the Kremlin will only feel easy when it has as many forces as all its neighbors and adversaries combined: in other words, security for its equals insecurity for each of the latter individually.

Similarly the geographical asymmetry, which is regarded as unfavorable to NATO in the West, is instead presented in Moscow as a factor justifying an additional Soviet effort. The aforementioned pamphlet specifies that the USSR has to defend a territory 11 times bigger than NATO and that it also has to "maintain an approximate balance in the world oceans" and concentrate its reserves in an exposed territory, whereas the United States can maintain "large amounts of equipment on its national territory where nothing immobilizes them."

The Military's Choice

Nonetheless, the insatiability shown by the Soviet General Staff throughout the Brezhnev years has now given rise to a qualitatively new threat: that of missiles which from Europe can reach fortified targets in the USSR. Thus the Soviet military -- for it is they who will determine the decision -- have the choice between two solutions:

1 -- They could make this new "6-minute threat" (the time attributed to the Pershing missiles to reach their target) an absolute priority and subordinate their entire policy to its elimination. In this case they must reach an agreement with the Americans in Geneva this year on the basis, if not of the zero option, at least of the interim solution proposed by Mr Reagan. There is no doubt that this idea has been considered since Mr Kvitsinskiy, the Soviet negotiator, was authorized to explore such a compromise with his U.S. counterpart Mr Nitze in Geneva last July. But it is equally certain that this was vetoed by Mr Gromyko and that all the statements now heard in Moscow tend in the other direction. The Soviet leadership, adhering to its "approximate balance," maintains that the slightest addition to Western armaments is unacceptable and will have to bring a response.

Generally speaking, nobody is prepared to countersign an agreement which would give the go-ahead to U.S. missiles, whatever their number. And the hope of obtaining such a go-ahead from Moscow is not the smallest weakness in the procedure decided by NATO in 1979.

2 -- The other solution is the continuation of the SS-20 program, and there is reason to wonder whether this is not the Soviet military's secret desire. Some 350 missiles have already been deployed, including around 100 in Asia: why not go to 600, in other words, to the total of the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles present in the seventies and which it was the intention to "modernize"?

But this additional deployment would only be part of the announced response: Other short-range weapons might possibly be deployed in the GDR against the Pershings (although the Kremlin has hitherto always been very reticent about displaying its nuclear weapons in its satellites), and, above all, U.S. territory will be placed "in a comparable situation," as has been asserted since Brezhnev's time.

That does not mean that the SS-20 missiles will be deployed in Cuba or Nicaragua, as has suddenly been thought in Washington in the past few days: the first possibility has been explicitly ruled out by [CPSU Central Committee International Section First Deputy Chief] Mr Zagladin and the second seems highly unlikely for the same reasons. In the present situation it seems much more likely that new short-range submarine-borne missiles -- not included in the SALT agreements -- will be deployed near the U.S. coasts, and if worst comes to worst (but this would scarcely have any military significance) the deployment of SS-20 missiles in Kamchatka, targeted on Alaska and California.

Thus the overall impression is that in the coming months -- provided there are no new developments following a crisis at the top -- Soviet behavior in this affair will be based on two conflicting but in fact complementary principles. On the one hand, great caution at "operational" level, in that any rash and provocative gesture will be avoided. The deployment of the NATO missiles will be energetically opposed until the last minute but it will not be a casus belli or even the starting point for a serious international crisis. On the other hand, great firmness on principles, the assertion of maximalist positions the better to prepare for negotiations which might start in 1 or 2 years time, after the implementation of the NATO decision. The Kremlin might ultimately even break off the Geneva negotiations on medium-range weapons ("Geneva 2," as they are called in Moscow)...to reopen dialogue with Washington a few months later in the framework of "Geneva 1," in other words, the START negotiations on the two superpowers' "strategic" arms. This will bring together the two negotiations -- an idea being considered in both Washington and Moscow and the only one which makes it possible to embrace the forces the two alliance systems have on an overall level. This is the only way that the problems raised in the present controversy, including possibly that of the French and British armaments, will be able to find a solution one day. An agreement will then be in sight but once again at a level considerably higher than today.

LITHUANIAN COURT BEGINS SVARINSKAS TRIAL 3 MAY

Charged With 'Anti-State' Activities

LD041232 Moscow TASS in English 1846 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Vilnius May 3 TASS -- The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic today has started the hearing in open session of the case of A. Svarinskas.

As it was reported earlier, A. Svarinskas, a former member of an armed band that operated on the territory of Lithuania, the priest of the Catholic Church in the town of Vidukle, was arrested on January 26, 1983 by the Procurator's Office of the Lithuanian SSR for anti-state and anti-constitutional activities. The defendant is accused of engaging over a number of years in the drawing up of slanderous materials and of sending them abroad through illegal channels where these materials were used by subversive centres for anti-Soviet purposes. Using religion as a cover, he incited in believers enmity and division, called them to struggle against the existing system and existing laws, to disobey the authorities.

Relatives of the defendant are also present in the hall of the court.

Priest's Apartment Searched

LD041237 Vatican City in Lithuanian to Europe 0330 GMT 3 May 83

[Excerpts] Telsiai: On 26 January 1983 about 30 security officials surrounded the apartment of Rev Jonas Kauneckas. Several of them quietly entered his study and produced a search warrant issued by the Lithuanian SSR prosecutor in connection with the case of Rev Alfonsas Svarinskas and of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Believers.

The search began at 1500. It was headed by Prosecutor Jakavicius of the interrogation department at the republican prosecutor's office.

Security officials inspected every piece of paper and every page of the books in the study. They inspected all old newspapers and papers found in the wastebasket. Almost everything written by Reverend Kauneckas was confiscated: letters which were not sealed, sermons, plans of sermons, various notes and notebooks.

The 53d edition of the CHRONICLE was confiscated, as were six copies of a letter by the priests of Telsiai Diocese to Brezhnev, a letter from Reverend Paliukas and Reverend Veliuoniskis of Tveras -- 50 pages -- to the bishop of Telsiai, the Council of Priests, and to the editorial office of TIESA, a letter from Reverend Gedvilas to the administrator of Telsiai Diocese about his refusal to take part in a conversation with representative of the Council of Religious Affairs Anilionis.

Many photographs were confiscated, including those of members of the Committee for the Defense of Catholics' Rights, of a youth procession to Siluva, to the Mountain of the Cross, of the funeral of Rev Virgilijus Jaugelis, of destroyed crosses and others. The Chekists took away three Tsarist 5 ruble coins donated by a woman for the gilding of liturgical vessels.

AUTHORITIES INTERROGATE DISSIDENT MEIMAN

NC032026 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 3 May 83

[Text] Moscow, May 3 (AFP) -- Retired mathematician Naum Meiman, a founder of the now-dissolved group for monitoring Soviet implementation of the Helsinki Agreement, was recently interrogated for an hour-and-a-half by the Moscow public prosecutor, Mr Meiman said in a statement received today by foreign reporters here.

The statement said the questioning occurred on April 21. Mr Meiman, aged 72, was asked if he had paid a sum of money for information from a man now under arrest in Erevan, Soviet Armenia, and about his relations with dissidents recently sentenced for drafting a document attacking discrimination against Jews at Moscow University.

BRIEFS

SCHOOL CURRICULUM CHANGES--The Soviet minister of education, Mikhail Prokofyev, has told the press about some changes effective in school curriculums as of 1 September. New text books and manuals will be introduced with an eye to the contemporary level of physics, biology and other sciences. Senior graders will be taking a course in the fundamentals of communist ethics. The minister urged more efforts in rearing the rising generation on the principles of patriotism and brotherly attitude to all nations of the world. Some schools are experimenting with a shift to an enrollment class of six, instead of seven, as is now the case. [Text] [Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 3 Apr 83 LD]

SELSKAYA ZHIZN REVIEWS FIELD WORK PROGRESS

PM030906 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 28 Apr 83 p 1

[Osychin "Agricultural Review": "Concern for Grain"]

[Text] The country's agroindustrial complex workers are preparing a fitting welcome for May Day fall sowing has gotten under way in all union republics. Farmers everywhere are seeking to make the best use of land, equipment, and fertilizers, carrying out high-quality field work and are laying a sound foundation for the 1983 harvest.

According to USSR Central Statistical Administration data, by 25 April spring crops had been sown on 48.4 million hectares of kolkhoz, sovkhoz, and interfarm enterprise land, which is considerably more than by this date last year. Some 14.6 million hectares were sown over the last week. Grain and pulse crops cover 26.1 million hectares.

The dry, warm weather which has established itself in many regions is helping to build up sowing rates and complete the sowing in optimum time. Almost 1 million hectares of spring crops have already been sown in Stavropol Kray. Having sown early cereals, farmers have begun sowing corn and hulled crops, with the areas which they cover increasing appreciably. The people of Stavropol Kray are keeping a careful eye on the winter crop fields and intend to obtain from them more high-quality grain. To achieve this, foliar top-dressing of the sown areas is required. But, unfortunately, the Kuybyshevazot Association, as a TASS correspondent reports, has held up the dispatch of 20,000 tons of carbamides to Stavropol Kray. But there is no response from the Volga Region to the numerous telegrams. And that is a pity, since after all timing is everything....

To increase grain crop harvests requires that particularly great attention be devoted everywhere to winter crop areas. A top dressing has already been applied to more than 32 million hectares of them. That is fine. But it is necessary to carry out a further series of agrotechnical measures which can help to increase the harvest.

The situation in many zones is such that after the spring rains winter crops have begun to tiller vigorously and rapidly produce verdure. This can lead subsequently to overconsumption by the plants of moisture reserves, lodging, and a reduced harvest. In order to prevent this happening it is essential that the sown areas in the Central Chernozem, The Volga Region, Belorussia, the Non-Chernozem Zone, the North Caucasus, and a number of Ukrainian oblasts and other places be treated with retardants which temporarily reduce the growth of stalks, strengthen them, and intensify the physiobiological processes of metabolism. Scientific establishments recommend that the treatment of winter wheat be carried out during the phase at the end of tillering and the beginning of shooting by applying TUR [expansion unknown] at a dosage of 6 liters of 60 percent preparation per hectare. Winter Rye fields are treated with [kampozan] at a rate of 4 liters per hectare. These essential agricultural methods are highly effective on warm, sunny days. Requests by kolkhozes and sovkhozes for the preparations are being completely satisfied, and it is now up to rayon agroindustrial associations and farm leaders and specialists to organize the work.

Winter crop fields also need protection against pests, diseases, and weeds. Even in Krylovskiy, Pavlovskiy, Novopokrovskiy, and Primorsko-Akhtarskiy Rayons in the Kuban the struggle against the corn ground beetle and the cereal leaf beetle is not being conducted well, and in Kanevskiy and Kushchevskiy Rayons the treatment of sown areas with herbicides has still not begun. These oversights can be detrimental to the harvest.

The comprehensive field work and strict observance of production and agrotechnical discipline are among the urgent demands affecting every collective. Many advanced farms in the RSFSR are meeting this year's schedule for soil preparation and sowing work. Over 23.2 million hectares of spring crops -- more than 27 percent of the plan -- have been sown here. Volgograd Oblast arable farmers were the first to complete the sowing of early grain crops in the Volga region. Their baton has now been taken over by Saratov Oblast farms, where over 50 percent of spring crops have already been sown. Soil cultivation and sowing work are being carried out round the clock there.

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses are combining the warm air treatment of seeds with seed decontamination, which increases germinating capacity, and germinating power. Soil packing is being carried out to produce sturdy, even shoots. The mass application of progressive techniques and the collective contract have made it feasible to sow early crops in 80-100 hours. That is how long it took the Iskra Kolkhoz in Fedorovskiy Rayon to sow 5,000 hectares of cereals and to treat the seed rows with mineral fertilizers.

This is how field work can and must be done everywhere. Some 73 percent of the spring crops area has already been sown in Kursk Oblast, 70 percent in Orel Oblast, 60 percent in Tula Oblast, and 58 percent in Penza Oblast. Field work is progressing ever further eastward where vast areas of grain crops are concentrated and where work will be particularly intensive in the fields this year. However, not all subdivisions of the agro-industrial complex are showing the necessary concern to reduce that intensiveness. In Krasnoyarsk Kray, for example, farms are experiencing difficulties because of a shortage of high quality seeds and are replenishing their seed stocks by exchange and purchase from state resources. But they were angry when the bases recently received 1,900 tons of substandard pea seeds from Ulyanovsk Oblast enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of Procurements.

Corn is to play an important role in increasing grain production this year. The areas sown with corn are expanding and industrial cultivation techniques are being used. More than 2.7 million hectares of corn for grain -- 69 percent of the plan -- have already been sown. Using the example set by advanced teams and links, competition has been launched to produce 100 quintals of grain per hectare from irrigated land and 60-70 quintals from unirrigated land. Sowing is underway on a massive scale in the Ukraine, the North Caucasus, and the Central-Chernozem Zone.

Hulled crop producers are busy. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses have sown the first few hundred thousand hectares of millet and buckwheat. The rice growers have gone out into the paddy fields with their seed drills. Rice is being sown in Uzbekistan, southern Ukraine, southern Kazakhstan, the North Caucasus, the lower Volga Region, and elsewhere.

The main task for this year and the 5-year plan as a whole is to sharply increase grain production. And that will be achieved by those farms, teams, and links which perform exemplary work in the spring fields and lay a firm foundation for a big harvest.

RSFSR CSA FIGURES ON SPRING SOWING PROGRESS CITED

CSA Data as of 25 April

PM031429 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Apr 83 First Edition p 1

[I. Nivin "Field Work Diary": "The Sowing Complex"]

[Excerpts] According to the RSFSR Central Statistical Administration's figures, by 25 April 23,216,000 hectares of spring crops had been sown, 16,400,000 hectares more than by the same date last year.

That figure includes over 16 million hectares of grain and pulse crops (excluding corn) that have been sown.

One million hectares of (industrial) sugar beet have been sown, 72.3 percent of the plan.

Some 87,400 hectares of potatoes have been planted, which is 45,000 hectares more than by this time last year.

Some 169,400 hectares of vegetables have been sown or planted.

The field work front has broadened still further in the RSFSR in recent days. Some 57 oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics have joined in the sowing. The area under spring crops has increased by 9 million hectares in the past week, which indicates the growing pace of soil preparation and sowing. By 25 April there were 16.4 million hectares more under spring crops than by this time last year.

The pace of field work could have been still higher had the entire machine and tractor pool joined in the sowing work. Unfortunately, many kolkhozes, sovkhoses and Goskomselkhoztekhnica associations have failed to fulfill last fall's socialist pledges for the preparation of equipment for field work in 1983. On the whole, the level of tractor readiness is lower than last year's. Particularly large quantities (up to 17 percent of those supposedly available) were not ready for work in Novgorod, Perm, and Irkutsk Oblasts, the Udmurt ASSR and many farms in West Siberia. Nor have plows, seed drills and cultivators been repaired on time everywhere. This applies primarily to farms in Kurgan and Amur Oblasts and the Tuva ASSR.

Crop treatment has begun in those fields where grain crops, sugar beet and corn for grain were sown early.

A number of oblasts have begun to cultivate fallow fields.

Official Comments on Report

LD042321 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] The RSFSR (Central Statistical Administration) has reported statistics on the progress of field work on the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhoses. Commenting on these at our request, Gennadiy Ivanovich Beglov, deputy chief of the Main Directorate for Agriculture at the RSFSR Ministry of Agriculture, noted that the increase in the area sown over the last week is the largest since the beginning of the current sowing season and of all preceding years. The area sown is approximately 12 million hectares, while various crops have now been sown on approximately 35 million hectares. The plan for grain and pulse crops sowing has been 44 percent fulfilled. Mass sowing is under way of millet, buckwheat, and rice. There has been a significant increase in recent days in the area occupied by potatoes. Most sovkhoses and kolkhozes completed beet sowing by the 1 May holiday. Work on areas earmarked for sunflower is now being carried out in the Volga region and the Central Nonchernozem Zone.

ADMIRAL GORSHKOV RECALLS FIRST SEVASTOPOL RAID

PM031447 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 83 Morning Edition p 3

[Report on interview with Twice Hero of the Soviet Union and Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov by IZVESTIYA correspondent V. Goltsev -- date and place not specified: "The First Salvos of Sevastopol"]

[Text] [Editorial Introduction] Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov was an active participant in the Great Patriotic War. From the first hours of the Hitlerite attack on our Motherland till the final victorious salvos he was assigned to action in the fleet. S. Gorshkov began the war in the Black Sea as commander of a squadron of cruisers. Then he commanded the Azov naval flotilla, which under his leadership in December 1941 carried out the disembarkation of the renowned landing on the Kerch peninsula. In November 1942 S. Gorshkov commanded the 47th Army, defending the Caucasus. Then he once more commanded the Azov flotilla. From April 1944 until the end of the war S. Gorshkov commanded the legendary Danube flotilla, which especially distinguished itself during the Yasso-Kishinev operation and in the battles for Belgrade and Budapest.

Today we publish S. Gorshkov's reminiscences on the first hours of the war, which he shared with our correspondent V. Goltsev. [end introduction]

Joint maneuvers of the Black Sea Fleet and the troops of the Odessa Military District were held in mid-June 1941 in the Black Sea. They rehearsed tasks concerning operational and tactical interaction by fleet forces and ground troops. Great attention was paid by repulsing enemy landing from the sea. At that time they seemed quite probable. But, as the experience of the Great Patriotic War showed, the Hitlerites did not manage to carry out a single major troop land. They lacked the specially trained troop contingents and the special ships for this purpose. Furthermore, the Soviet Navy reliably protected the maritime flanks of the combatant armies. But at that time seaborne landings, I repeat, seemed quite probable.

The Black Sea Fleet cruiser squadron which I commanded at that time was part of the "Blue" forces during the exercise and, with the start of the exercise, was transferred from Sevastopol to Odessa. These were alarming times. The fleet command was clearly aware of the growing threat of military attack by Hitlerite Germany against our motherland. Measures were being taken to increase combat readiness and sharpen vigilance, and intensive combat training was in progress: posts, commands, subunits, and ships' crews were being put together. The Black Sea sailors were successfully mastering the combat equipment and weapons and, simultaneously, political work was being done on a broad front among the personnel. The men were being educated in a spirit of devotion to the socialist motherland and hatred for imperialism and its strike force, German fascism. Authoritative political workers, true Leninist commissars, were working on the ships. Battalion Commissar V. Martynov was in charge of political work on board Chervona Ukraina, Regimental Commissar F. Vershinin on board Krasnyy Krym, and Regimental Commissar N. Petrov on board Krasnyy Kavkaz. They were courageous and experienced Communists, capable of finding the way to reach the sailors hearts.

We went into the exercise with great alarm in our minds. The tense military and political situation in Europe required us to execute the military training plan swiftly and properly. Furthermore, two of the squadron's three cruisers -- the Chervona Ukraina and the Krasnyy Kavkaz -- had come out of refit only 6 weeks beforehand and their crews needed intensive training to make up for the time lost during the refit.

During the maneuvers the squadron had the task of moving undetected to the Yevpatoriya area and landing troops on the Crimean shore.

At that time we did not have any specialized landing craft, and the transportation of the landing troops from the cruisers to the shore was carried out by using the ships' longboard, launches, and even rowing boats. Despite the novelty of this task for the crews, both cruisers which participated in the landing coped with it successfully. More to the point, the experience we acquired during these maneuvers came in very useful some 3 months later during the troop landings in the area of Grogoryevka near Odessa, when the fleet found itself in approximately the same conditions as at Yevpatoriya, but by that time in a combat situation.

On 18 June, after the exercise, the commanding officers of all formations, ships, and units were invited to the headquarters of Col Gen Ya. Cherevichenko, commander of Odessa Military District, for an analysis conference. We waited a long time for this meeting, but it never took place. This caused much perplexity among us. We were ordered back to our ships. Soon afterward the ship commanders were ordered aboard the command ship Elbrus. There we were greeted by Adm I. Isakov, deputy peoples commissar for the Navy and chief of the Naval Main Staff. Noting our confusion, he said:

"We have no time for analysis. The ships must return quickly to their bases and be prepared for any surprises at all, but must not succumb to provocations."

Once up on the command ship's bridge, I. Isakov pointed to the deserted commercial port of Odessa. Dozens of German, Romanian, and Bulgarian merchantmen had been unloading there the previous day.

"What do you make of this?"

"They are running off," one of us said.

"Right. They are on their way. But why so quickly?"

"They are under orders."

"Right. But such orders was issued only in the case of imminent hostilities. War is drawing near. It may start in 2 or 3 days' time."

This was the first time we heard a senior fleet commander speak of imminent war.

The ships were quick to raise anchor. We were back in Sevastopol in the evening of 19 June. Dropping anchor at their allocated moorings, all ships proceeded immediately to replenish the supplies they used during the exercise and stock up to normal levels. The port's nimble tugs towed to the ships barge after barge bearing ammunition, fuel, water, and food supplies. Everything seemed as usual apart from one fact. In the past after exercises the fleet immediately stepped down to routine combat readiness, while this time we maintained heightened operational readiness.

...21 June was a Saturday. The sailors await it impatiently. They are awaiting it because in the evening they can go on shore leave, spend more time with family and friends, stroll along the familiar paths of Primorskiy Boulevard and the sailors' garden, or to a concert, the movies, or a dance. Although heightened combat readiness was maintained throughout the fleet, the commanding officers and sailors who had distinguished themselves most during the exercise were nevertheless given shore leave. At dusk having seen for myself that everything was fully in order in the squadron, I myself took the launch to Graftskaya Harbor.

The city's population, from the youngest to the oldest, have always, one way or another, been linked with the fleet. On that warm summer's evening, when the fleet had ended its exercises and the sailors were on shore leave, all Sevastopol people were in a holiday mood. Music was playing, there were the continual echoes of a song and joyful laughter. At the anchorage, the patches of light reflecting across the mirrorlike waters from the northern side brought out the dark, watchful shadows of the naval ships, without a single light on board: the battleship Parizhskaya Kommuna and the cruisers Voroshilov, Molotov, Chernova Ukraina, and Krasnyy Kavkaz. Our squadron's cruiser, Krasnyy Krym, nearing the end of running repairs and also in complete darkness, was lying along the pier of the Sevastopol Naval Dockyard.

With a feeling of unease I looked at this last -- as it later transpired -- peaceful view of Sevastopol. Adm I. Isakov's words about the probability of the imminent start of war gave me no peace. I did not want to believe that our country's peaceful life could be disrupted.

After 0100 hours a dispatch rider arrived at my home.

"Comrade Captain First Rank! The fleet has been put on maximum readiness," the breathless sailor reported, handing me a packet of urgent orders.

"Could it have started?" I thought, running into the street. No other sound was to be heard apart from the footfalls on the road of hundreds of people hurrying back to their ships and units and the revving motors of occasional automobiles. I had not had time to run to Gfatskaya Harbor where the launch was waiting for me when, at 0155 hours, the night silence was shattered by the deep sirens of the ships and the Sevastopol Naval Dockyard, which in an emergency were used to signal "grand assembly." As if by command, 2 minutes later the entire city was plunged in complete darkness.

On the quarterdeck of the cruiser Chervona Ukraina, anchored at a buoy in the northern bay between the Aleksandrovskiy ravelin and Inzhenernaya Harbor, I was met by the ship's commander, Cap First Rank N. Basistyy, and his political deputy, Battalion Commissar V. Martynov. We all three went up on to the bridge.

"The fleet's operations duty officer put the ships on maximum readiness at 0105 hours. Ammunition has already been issued to the cruiser's anti-aircraft guns," the ship's commander calmly reported on the situation.

According to a well-established old custom, almost automatically I would say, the cruiser's preparation for combat and sailing proceeded correctly, in accordance with orders, instructions and combat procedures. One after the other the commanding officers of combat units and services submitted clear reports of readiness. "Yes, it was not in vain that we trained the personnel strenuously, night and day, in combat, air and emergency alarms during all these 7 weeks since the cruiser left the dockyard pier," I thought with satisfaction.

A state of maximum readiness was reported by semaphor by the commanders of Krasnyy Kavkaz, Capt Second Rank A. Gushchin, and of Krasnyy Krym, Capt Second Rank A. Zubkov. At that anxious time I still did not know that a signal announcing full combat readiness had been issued by Rear Adm I. Yeliseyev, chief of fleet Staff, at the orders of Adm N. Kuznetsov, people's commissar for the Navy.

Everything went deadly quiet in tense anticipation. Only now and then a launch would rush by, taking sailors to their ships. At about 0310 hours we heard the engine sounds of a heavy aircraft approaching from the sea. This sound -- howling, overstrained, choked, which soon became familiar to all -- was on that first night something totally unknown to us, something blood chilling. What was it? Hundreds of people asked themselves this silent question. Only some individuals among them were really aware that at that time there were no aircraft of ours in the air.

The first aircraft soon flew away, but we could hear that other aircraft were approaching Sevastopol. All of a sudden, at 0330 hours, things exploded in a flash. The beams of powerful searchlights soared upward and alarmingly crisscrossed the dark sky. The ships' signalmen and shore observers reported several parachutes in the air. What were they? Enemy saboteurs? This question was answered only later, when we found out that, in an attempt to blockade the ships in their base, the Hitlerites, trying to block up the ships in their base, had dropped bottom influence mines in the sea.

Some 15-20 minutes later two powerful explosions could be heard from somewhere in the city. This was "accomplished" by mines which had fallen not in the sea but on shore. But at that moment everyone thought that the enemy was bombing Sevastopol.

The cruiser squadron had no specific orders at all. The situation, however, insistently required that immediate decisions be made. The enemy pilots could have discovered the anchorage of our ships and almost without hindrance proceeded to precision-bomb them.

The signalmen report:

"Alien aircraft."

The watch officer's request more details. All of a sudden, a sailor's emotional voice:

"Fascist."

The signalman did not report the make or type of the aircraft, nor its nationality. The exclamation of hatred for the enemy came right from his heart: Fascist. And we had sworn to the motherland to fight the fascists.

I gave the order to open fire.

Several minutes passed, and an aircraft screamed overhead, coming from the shore. It was totally invisible in the night darkness. Nevertheless, Sr Lt I. Volovik, commanding officer of the antiaircraft battery, immediately oriented himself by the sound and gave the order:

"Fire!"

All at once, all six antiaircraft guns thundered, as if competing with one another in rapidity of fire. After Chervona Ukraina, the other ships from the squadron, anchored near to the exit to the sea, opened fire on the fascist aircraft.

An enquiry came from Navy headquarters:

"What were you firing at?"

"An aircraft"

"Who ordered it? "

"I personally."

A brief pause followed. Then fleet Commander Oktyabrskiy said:

"Well, you did right."

The Hitlerite aircrafts' raid on Sevastopol ended as unexpectedly as it had started. By 0350 hours everything was quiet. One more agonizing hour passed, until fleet headquarters released the news and all doubts were removed. The war had started.

The first raid by the Hitlerite Air Force against Sevastopol, main base of the Black Sea Fleet, was successfully repulsed. The Hitlerite pilots did not manage to make a bombing strike against the ships or the city. The fleet chalked up the first downed fascist aircraft. As it became known afterwards, our Naval Forces in all seas did not let the Hitlerites catch them unawares. They entered the war well organized. They dealt the proper rebuff to the enemy.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER ON LESSONS OF WW II

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[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- "The farther the World War Two years recede deeper into history, the more clearly seen is the historic significance of our victory over fascism, the more perceptibly appear before us the great lessons of 1939-1945. One of major lessons is that the struggle for peace should be actively waged through the joint efforts of all peoples interested in it," Marshal of the Soviet Union Semen Kurkotkin, deputy minister of defence of the USSR, told a TASS correspondent. The marshal gave an interview in connection with the approaching Victory Day -- the 38th anniversary of the surrender of Hitlerite Germany.

"To me, just like to all former frontline soldiers, the war is familiar from personal experience," Marshal Kurkotkin went on to say. "I know what misfortunes and suffering it brings to people. Known to me in the performance of my duty by means of which we defeated fascism 38 years ago cannot be compared in any way with up-to-date weapons, nuclear ones, in the first place. "Four decades ago the war brought suffering and death to groups of people and sometimes to a considerable part of the population of whole countries whereas a modern war already threatens the whole of mankind and its very existence.

"Our country invariably comes out in favour of peace, relaxation of international tension and development of peaceful cooperation between peoples. Such as the principled and consistent stand of the USSR. At the same time we, for quite understandable reasons, cannot allow ourselves to be weak or unprepared in the face of the growing aggressiveness of imperialism and first of all that of U.S. imperialism. Our policy in the field of defence is clear to the utmost. Its essence is that the USSR ensures only a necessary defence and spends for the purposes only funds which are needed for this." The Soviet Armed Forces get perfected exclusively in the name of this goal. It, in particular, has been also recorded in the Constitution of the USSR.

"Do not be surprised," Marshal of the Soviet Union Semen Kurkotkin said in conclusion, "that I, a professional military person, who has served in the Soviet Army for almost half a century, so often speak of peace on the eve of the day of victory in one of history's greatest wars. The matter is that peace is our goal. If you will, this is the meaning of the existence of the Armed Forces of the socialist state. We are called upon to contain and prevent an aggression which is organically alien to socialism. But if someone would like to test our strength and our ability to repulse any aggressor, let him recall the lessons of the Second World War. They are quite instructive nowadays as well."